

Chef serves up a simple wedding

By ADAM PRESKO

MARCO Pierre White, the enfant terrible of British chefs, married Lisa Butcher at Brompton Oratory in London yesterday. Albert Roux, the restaurateur who gave Mr White his first job in London, was best man.

The bride, 21, wore a floor-length buckskin white dress by Bruce Oldfield. She won the *Elle* Face of the Year competition while still at school. Her father, John, gave her away. The groom, 30, marrying for the second time, wore an Anthony Price morning suit.

The couple became engaged after a three-week courtship. Keith Floyd and Shakira Caine were among the 70 guests who celebrated afterwards at the Hurlingham Club in Fulham. They ate salmon and langoustine terrine, followed by beef en croûte and lemon tart.

A member of staff at the Hurlingham said: "It was a pretty ordinary wedding by all accounts."

Mr White, owner of Harvey's restaurant in Wandsworth, southwest London, has been described as the rudest chef in London — to both customers and staff.



Finishing touches: Bruce Oldfield making sure that Lisa Butcher's veil was exactly right before she walked down the aisle yesterday

Pilot and son killed in helicopter crash

By NICHOLAS WATT

A HELICOPTER pilot and one of his sons died yesterday when the aircraft crashed into woodlands two miles from Broadmoor hospital near Bracknell, Berkshire. Rescuers struggled through dense undergrowth to reach the wreckage.

The dead man was Captain Colin Bates, chief pilot with Air Hanson, operators of the helicopter. The boy, said to be between 10 and 12 years old, was trapped in the wreckage

and died of multiple injuries before ambulance crews arrived. Two other boys and a man survived.

Doctors spent more than an hour trying to revive Captain Bates, who was said to be in his 30s, but he died from a ruptured main artery, in spite of open heart surgery performed at the scene.

One of the boys who survived, with serious head and spinal injuries, was airlifted to the Royal London hospital

in Whitechapel, east London. The two other survivors, a boy and a man, were taken to Frimley Park Hospital in Surrey. The man, believed to be 30 years old, had chest and abdominal injuries, while the child had less serious leg fractures.

The helicopter, a single-engine Bell 206 Jet Ranger, was bound from Newmarket, Suffolk, to Blackbushe airport, Hampshire, a few miles away from the accident site. It came down in dense woodland owned by the defence ministry near the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst and a mile from the nearest road, in an area known as Lower Star Point near Crowthorne.

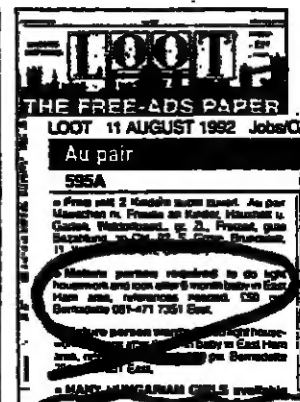
Twenty firemen, who reached the scene using the Devil's Highway, an ancient trackway through the forest, used hydraulic cutting gear to get into the twisted wreckage. The first fire crew had to leave their engine half a mile away from the crash site and walk to the wreckage, carrying cutting equipment.

The alarm had been raised by Blackbushe air traffic controllers who picked up a Mayday broadcast from the pilot. The five-seat aircraft, which is owned by ADT Aviation and operated by Air Hanson, is made in Canada by Bell Helicopters. Terry Arnold, of Bell, said: "It was designed in the 1960s and the US National Transportation Safety Board has described the model as the safest single engine helicopter."

Lord Hanson, chairman of Air Hanson's parent company, said in a statement last night: "Colin Bates, the chief pilot for Air Hanson, was a highly experienced helicopter pilot and had been an essential member of the team for many years. We regret this tragedy very much and our thoughts are with the victims' families."

Her husband, who cut short a business trip to Dubai, arrived home yesterday. He described the ordeal as a nightmare. "To us it does not seem like reality. You hear about it, you see it. When it happens to you, you really understand."

Anyone with any information is asked to telephone 081-593 8232 and ask for the CID at Plaitow.



The newspaper advert for a mother's help

Detectives search for stolen baby

Continued from page 1

brought her downstairs, this lady had prepared her little blanket on the floor with toys laid out and immediately started to play with her."

The child seemed content and although the job had not been offered, Mrs Quli decided to leave the woman with her child and go swimming with her brother, who was visiting from Ireland. Police know the woman was at the Quli home when she answered the telephone at 2.50pm. Another call at 3.15pm went unanswered.

"I came back into the house and the pushchair was missing," Mrs Quli said. "I got frantic and ran round thinking 'where can she be?' I thought she might have taken her for a walk because she can get quite unsentinel. I saw that her bottle of milk was missing," she said.

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Parents urged to vet mothers' helps

Professionals believe nannies, au pairs and mothers' helps should, like child-minders, be registered. Lin Jenkins reports

AS a police search for Farrah Quli, the abducted six-month-old, began yesterday, child welfare professionals warned parents that they should screen those who go into their homes to mind children because no system of registration exists.

Child-minders who offer care in their own homes are required by law to be registered by local authorities but there is no such provision for nannies, au pairs or mothers' helps. The government is under pressure to include registration for these groups in the Children Act, but they are not yet included in the provisions.

Shane Quli, the child's father, in an appeal for his daughter's safe return, said: "Whoever wants to employ somebody, they have to be not only 100 per cent but 200 per cent sure — check and take time to get as many references as possible, check all the addresses and even go round to friends who know them before you employ somebody." The couple had approached a local child-minder but she did not have a vacancy.

Mr Quli's advice was echoed by Det Supt Keith Fletcher, who said: "Obviously, the best way is to go through registered child-minders." He said that if parents were opting for care in their own home they must thoroughly check references.

Pat Small, general secretary of the Professional Association of Nursery Nannies, said detailed vetting could be an awesome prospect for parents who had perhaps never before been employers. "For both the potential employer and employee it is better to go through a professional agency. If you do not, you must double-check everything and invite the person into your home for a few days before you appoint them," she said.

Baby missing, page 1

British experts put a plague on locusts

AN INTERNATIONAL research team led by British scientists has developed a powerful new weapon against the desert and migratory locust, which can devastate crops.

The environmentally benign biological pesticide based on a fungus found in Niger, punctures the skins of locusts and grasshoppers and spreads like a cancer inside. Laboratory and limited field trials in west Africa have shown that the spray kills the pests in days, with more than 90 per cent destroyed in a single spray.

Even before they die the locusts become lethargic, losing their appetites in about three days. Recent tests in Madagascar, which at present is suffering from a locust plague, indicate that the fungal spray also kills the migratory locust.

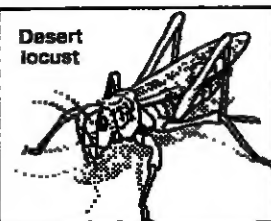
Chris Prior, of the International Institute of Biological Control in Ascom, Berkshire, who is leading the research, said the development had implications for a wide range of insects including aphids, one of the most wide-

Locusts are dying like flies from a spray on brew that really gets under their skin, reports Nick Nuttall

ly sprayed pests in Britain. "There are isolates of these fungi with high virulence against nearly all insects. We are working towards finding isolates against aphids."

The search for an environmentally benign pesticide comes after increasing concern over the use of chemical pesticides to fight desert locusts and grasshoppers. Concern has come from the afflicted countries and the overseas development agencies of Western governments, including Britain, that help fund the institute's research. Dieldrin, the most effective chemical, has been banned in many countries where such control is needed.

Although there has been a decline in desert locust populations, there are signs they are beginning to build up again. In 1958 locusts ate



Desert locust

167,000 tons of grain in Ethiopia that would have fed a million people for a year. Scientists have known for some time that a group of fungi called the Green Muscardines have members deadly to insects. Three years ago the scientists, who include members of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria and the DFV in Niger, began searching for one that would be deadly to the desert locust.

The fungus they have isolated, *Metarhizium flavoviride*, was found on the back of a dead grasshopper in Niger. "We subsequently confirmed that it has a wide host range and will knock out several grasshoppers and the desert locust," Dr Prior said. The team has devised a

formulation suitable for spraying in hot, low-humidity and arid parts of Africa where water-based sprays would evaporate before the fungus could act. It is made of groundnut oil and kerosene, which can be delivered using ultra-low-volume spray systems available in these countries.

Because the spray rates are small — between one and two litres per hectare — and the levels of kerosene and oil are relatively tiny, the mixture causes no damage to crops or grazing land. The fungal pesticide, which can be made from raw materials in the country of use, should also cost no more and has a kill rate equal to chemical pesticides.

The scientists, who emphasise that the fungus is harmless to other animals and man, are planning full-scale trials over the next three years with one of the first sites being Mauritania. Matthew Cook, assistant director at the Ascom institute, said they had secured more than \$1 million in funds to continue the work but needed another \$1 million.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nanny cleared in baby throwing case

A nanny was cleared yesterday of throwing a baby through the air to his mother in a fit of temper. Sheila Beeson, 29, of Thornhill, Southampton, a devout Baptist who has been involved with child care for 13 years, was found not guilty of child cruelty after a three-day trial at the Central Criminal Court. She left the court in tears and without comment.

The question occupying the jury during the trial was whether eight-week-old James Longcroft was thrown at his mother, a solicitor, or thrust into her arms. The prosecution alleged Miss Beeson threw James at Anita Longcroft at the family's home in Chelsea, southwest London, with the words "keep your damn baby". The court was told there had been a lot of tension between Miss Beeson and the Longcrofts and that she had decided to leave on the morning of the alleged incident.

Cheryl Drew, for Miss Beeson, accused the Longcrofts of being thoroughly vindictive, seeking to crush a woman whose life had been dedicated to the care of others. She produced a host of references, including one from the editor of *She* and a businesswoman from Atlanta, praising Miss Beeson's care of her babies. The Longcrofts were not in court for the verdict.

During his summing-up, Judge Denison said the case involved a clash of personalities for which both parties might be said to be responsible. He emphasised that the case did not involve systematic ill-treatment but an allegation of a single act committed in a flash of temper.

Afterwards, Samantha Harding, Miss Beeson's solicitor, said: "My client is delighted that justice has been done."

Diplomat expelled

Britain yesterday ordered the expulsion of an Iranian diplomat in retaliation for Iran's expulsion of a third secretary at the British embassy in Tehran in July. The Iranian chargé d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office last week and told that Ali Rajavi, a first secretary, had three weeks to leave the country. The Foreign Office said Iran had been warned of such a measure when it ordered the expulsion of Geoffrey Brammer, whom it accused of spying. Mr Brammer is now back in Britain. The charges were made against him in a report after he had been playing squash with an Iranian pilot. Last month three Iranians, none of them diplomats, were accused of unspecified intelligence activities and asked to leave.

IRA suspects still held

Five people were still being held last night by Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch for questioning about IRA plans for a series of car bombs in London after the discovery of hundreds of pounds of home-made explosives, vehicles and weapons. The three men and two women were arrested earlier this week and detectives have been given extensions to continue questioning them.

Baroness Phillips dies

Baroness Phillips of Fulham, champion of many causes, died peacefully at home yesterday after a short illness, her family announced. She was 82. The widow of former Labour general secretary Morgan Phillips, who died in 1963, Lady (Nona) Phillips attended House of Lords debates until the end of last month's session, where she was formerly a Labour government whip. She leaves a son, Morgan Phillips, 53, and a daughter, Gwyneth Dunwoody, 61, Labour MP for Crewe and Nantwich. Mrs Dunwoody said: "She was a remarkable woman who contributed to the Labour party at every level. Her contribution to the House of Lords was one of eminent common sense, wit and pithiness. She was very much an asset to the House." A Westminster memorial service may be held.

Airport chief strangled

The father of murdered airport chief Malcolm Olson, right, wept yesterday after hearing details of his son's killing in a Paris hotel.



The bound and gagged body of the Southampton airport director was found last February in the bath of his hotel room in Paris, where he was attending a seminar. Mr Olson, 34, who was single and lived at Hamble, Hampshire, had been strangled. There was also evidence of blows from a blunt object, according to a report by a French pathologist. As he recorded a verdict of unlawful killing, Graham Short, the coroner, told the inquest at Eastleigh that Mr Olson's death was a "brutal, calculated killing of a respected member of this community". The dead man's father, Godfrey Olson, a former mayor of Eastleigh and Conservative council group leader, said afterwards that it was the first time he had heard the full details of his son's death.

Roundhouse sold

Equity has failed to stop the sale of the Roundhouse in north London. The actors' union wanted Camden council to reconsider a bid to make the former theatre and concert venue into a London playhouse for Manchester's Royal Exchange Theatre. However, contracts have now been exchanged with Keweenaw Leisure, which bid £895,000 and promised to spend £40,000 to remove asbestos waste from an adjacent site. Camden's chief executive told Equity that a new bid could be considered, although Keweenaw's bid had been accepted subject to contract, but no new bid was made. Ian McGarry, general secretary of Equity, said yesterday: "It seems the key here has been the removal of asbestos from a site not even owned by Camden any longer, not the cultural future of the Roundhouse."

RAF bases shuffled

The RAF's new Logistics Command is to be based at two military camps in John Major's constituency, the Ministry of Defence said yesterday. About 2,500 personnel will move to the bases at RAF Wyton and RAF Brampton, either side of Huntingdon, from April 1994. The present Support Command at Brampton will be split into the Logistics Command and a branch called Personnel and Training, which will be moved to another area. Yesterday's confirmation came after a two-month consultation period with objectors and unions. The two bases will be occupied by about 950 servicemen and 1,500 civilian personnel transferred from Harrogate, Yorkshire; London; Strike Command at High Wycombe; Buckinghamshire; Stanbridge, Bedfordshire; and Swanton Morley, Norfolk.

Bullion jury still out

An Old Bailey jury trying five people accused of laundering £14 million from the Brink's-Mat gold bullion robbery spent a fifth night in a hotel last night. They will continue their deliberations and try to reach a verdict today. The five accused, who have variously denied handling and conspiracy to handle, are: Brian Perry, 53, of Biggin Hill, Gordon Farry, 48, of Westerham, Jean Savage, 48, of West Kingsdown, all in Kent; and Patrick Clark, 53, and his son Stephen, 26, of Chingford, Essex.

Independent price rise

The cover price of *The Independent* will rise to from 40p to 45p on Monday. The newspaper's price on Saturday will remain at 50p.

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Belfast snubs Dublin Olympic medallist

Classroom assault test case

Injured teacher sues council for negligence

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A TEACHER who suffered severe spinal injuries when she was assaulted by a ten-year-old pupil is to sue her local council for negligence. Her union is treating the legal action as a test case.

Hazel Spence-Young, 45, of Leamington, Warwickshire, has been unable to work since the classroom attack at Frederick Bird Junior School in Hillfields, Coventry, in 1989, in which she was punched on the chin. She still has to wear a neck brace. She is thought to be seeking £50,000 from the council and is also claiming damages from the Criminal Compensation Board, having already rejected an out-of-court settlement.

Mrs Spence-Young has issued a High Court writ alleging that the council was negligent in failing to warn her of the boy's history of violent behaviour or to send him to a special school. The council declined to comment on the case.

Jerry Bartlett, legal adviser

to the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said the case would set an important precedent for teachers, who have expressed growing concern about the level of violence in schools. "It is the first time the action of an employer to safeguard a teacher from exposure to a pupil with a history of violence has been tested. This was a completely unprovoked attack and her injury was similar to whiplash injury," Mr Bartlett said.

The union has led the call for practical measures to deal with disruptive pupils, at a time when the provision of places at special schools and off-site units is being squeezed. Union members at Bishop Llandaff School, Cardiff, held a strike last year after boys accused of sexual assault were readmitted. NAS/UTW leaders often cite the Elton report commissioned by the government in 1988, which found that almost 2 per cent of teachers faced physical aggres-

sion each week. Bill Herron, assistant general secretary, said that Mrs Spence-Young had been subjected to unreasonable risk. "In some cases a problem child is placed in a special school or taught at home but the attempt is always to keep a child in a normal school environment. But there are no guidelines as to how schools should deal with the child. It is literally up to each school concerned. We allege that if this teacher had been warned she would have been able to take precautions."

The union, he said, had never been able to pursue such a case because local authorities had been able to argue that they had taken suitable precautions, such as providing psychiatric counselling. "It is very unusual for a child this young to cause such a serious injury, which could put her out of work for life, and that also has to be taken into account. We will never accept that violence and assault are part and parcel of a teacher's job."



Eyes on the prize: Nigel Mansell trimming the eye-holes in his fireproof balaclava before a practice run yesterday for tomorrow's Hungarian Grand Prix, where he could become Britain's first world champion since 1976. Mansell's task, page 24

Open government: 1

Whitehall slowly unveils its secrets

The government's inner workings are gradually being exposed. But are we getting the full picture? Michael Evans reports

THE culture of secrecy in Whitehall is beginning to show signs of decline since the pledge of more open government by the prime minister and after initial steps by William Waldegrave, the cabinet minister charged with instilling into his colleagues the need for greater openness.

However, the records that have been released recently by the Foreign Office and Home Office have revealed no hidden scandals or secrets, which might indicate to those sceptical of the new policy that only material guaranteed not to embarrass the government is likely to be declassified.

The Rudolf Hess papers and files on the "Shingle Street" affair, proved damp squibs. Hess, Hitler's deputy, may have been mad but it appears he was not deceived into flying to Scotland by the secret intelligence service, nor was he an impostor. As for the residents of Shingle Street in Suffolk who were evacuated at short notice in June 1940, the released files made no mention of local rumours concerning burnt bodies on the beach or the arrival of German commandos.

At present, classified Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) papers up to 1941 are being prepared for release by the Public Record Office in Kew. A woman in the defence ministry, where the JIC wartime records are stored, is going through them to ensure that nothing is released that might embarrass individuals still alive or cause difficulties with allies.

However, according to Professor Sir Harry Hinsley, co-author of the official *British Intelligence in the Second World War*, who saw all the wartime JIC records as part of the research for the book, there is nothing in them to embarrass anyone. Sir Harry, one of the wartime codebreakers at the Government Code and Cypher School at Bletchley Park, said: "There were 400 JIC reports a year during the

war years. They ought to release the entire lot and not worry about it."

Files held by the intelligence services still remain locked away and are not affected by the rules governing release of papers after 30, 50, 75 and 100 years. The 100-year rule covers papers relating to the royal family and Ireland, and 50 years for intelligence-related material.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, has been asked by Mr Waldegrave to carry out an urgent review into the rules for placing files into the different categories. However, neither M15 nor M16 are under any pressure to release their digests of intelligence before or since the two world wars.

Rupert Allason, Tory MP for Torbay, who has written histories of M15 and M16, recently met Mr Waldegrave and all the top advisers at the Cabinet Office and asked for all intelligence records up to 1920 to be released. He has yet to be given an answer.

John Major has made it clear that he wants the presumption of keeping things secret to end. The response, at least from Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, has been welcomed by Mr Waldegrave's department.

A spokesman for Mr Waldegrave, who will produce a white paper on open government by the end of the year, said: "There is a cultural problem that has to be overcome within the civil service. It has to be recognised that greater openness will not always be comfortable for ministers. But that is a bullet which they will have to bite."

Maurice Frankel, director of the Campaign for Freedom of Information, said: "Mr Waldegrave is seeking to generate greater openness voluntarily, without legislation. This means that ministers will still be free to withhold disquieting or embarrassing material."

Open government: 2



Lord Griffiths: resisted inclusion in the guide



Lord Justice Lloyd: agreed that secrecy should end

Mandarins cling to their old ways

Not all government departments are embracing the new democratic climate with gusto, Robin Oakley reports

JOHN Major's pledge in the Conservative election manifesto to open up the workings of government is bearing fruit. But it takes longer to ripen on some Whitehall branches.

The compiler of a comprehensive new guide to Whitehall and its personalities sent her standard questionnaire, for example, to members of the Security Commission, the body which, at the prime minister's request, investigates and reports on breaches of security in the public service. The letters were sent to the Cabinet Office. All came back marked "unknown at this address".

When she persevered, Lord Griffiths of Govilon, the then chairman of the commission, replied that it was inappropriate to include his commission in the Whitehall guide. This despite the fact that the government had put out a press release naming the members.

The commission, now chaired by Lord Justice Lloyd, has since relented and its structure, functions and personnel are detailed with other Whitehall departments and regulatory bodies in *The Whitehall Companion*, edited by Hilary Muggridge and to be produced next month by Dod, the specialist parliamentary publisher.

Another group that proved slow to acknowledge the change of culture embarked

upon by Mr Major and William Waldegrave, the minister in charge of the Citizen's Charter and civil service reform, was the Downing Street policy unit. At first a spokesman refused to tell Dod who did what in the unit, saying that it changed too frequently to make such an exercise worthwhile. But when Dod obtained a list from another source, Downing Street heaved a sigh and agreed to verify details.

Ms Muggridge has noted a distinct change through the year since she began compiling departmental details and civil servants' biographies. "Most departments were helpful," she says, "although enthusiasm was a bit muted in a few cases. In the main we now seem to be pushing at an open door."

The post-election change showed. The Cabinet Office had been refusing to say which senior civil servants serviced which cabinet committees, supplying only an overall list of names. Ms Muggridge kept pushing and after Mr Waldegrave had made public the names of the ministers attending the committees, the machine relented and responsibilities were listed.

Some details will remain secret. The MoD said that biographical details should not include families and clubs, and MoD biographies will not carry photographs.

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Glasgow cuts HIV rate among drug users to 2%

BY ALISON ROBERTS

THE spread of HIV in Glasgow is being successfully slowed by needle and syringe exchange centres, a two-year study commissioned by the World Health Organisation indicates.

Changes in drug-user behaviour as a result of education have been documented across serial cross-sectional samples for the first time in a British city, showing that a concerted effort to reduce HIV prevalence in a high-risk group can work.

Although a causal link between needle exchange and lower HIV infection rates has not been proved, Glasgow's experience is encouraging. The city's large network of needle exchange centres was set up in 1987, when rates of HIV infection of up to 10 per cent were recorded in the north of the city, compared with a prevalence of almost zero 18 months earlier. Scientists feared an explosion of cases.

In 1990, however, the WHO study, co-ordinated by the Communicable Diseases Unit in Scotland, showed a prevalence of only 2 per cent

in its sample, and general HIV infection in Glasgow remains at a relatively low level. In London, where there are fewer needle exchange centres, about 13 per cent of drug injectors are HIV-positive.

Dr David Goldberg, of the Glasgow unit, said: "It has been said that you can't get drug users to change their behaviour, but this has clearly happened. When the needle and syringe exchange system began, HIV had only just been introduced into the drug-injecting population. I think the exchange centres were set up just in time."

More than 900 drug injectors were recruited to the study from treatment agencies, exchange centres and the street. Almost three-quarters of the sample were male and had been injecting drugs, including heroin, for an average of seven and a half years.

Both injecting with and passing on used equipment declined significantly among the users between 1990 and 1991. The number of injectors who avoided using needles and syringes completely increased from 57 per cent in 1990 to 71 per cent in 1991.

Lawrence Elliott, senior research officer at Glasgow's HIV and Aids Research Centre, said the city was unique in providing for injectors. "These results are very, very encouraging, but we still have a lot to do. Only 20 per cent of drug users in Glasgow come to the centres, so we have to concentrate on getting more people to attend."

The centres educate users about safe practices and the effective cleaning of equipment.

The study forms part of a larger WHO programme set up in 13 cities throughout the world to monitor injector behaviour and plan intervention to reduce HIV transmission. The results from all 13 cities will be presented at a conference in Glasgow next week.



Drain on resources: a dried-out stretch of the Lambourn at East Garston, Berkshire. Demand from leisure facilities is straining overstretched water supplies

Water rules to be tightened as rivers dry out

SOMETHING strange has happened to the upper Lambourn in Berkshire. Stretches of the chalk stream, once home to moorhens, kingfisher and trout, have disappeared.

Local concern as the spring-fed waterway, like many across the South, has dried up and in places vanished, was fuelled by a decision by the National Rivers Authority to grant a Japanese golf course project a licence to extract three million gallons of water from the river during the winter.

Now a racing stables is asking to pump 10 million gallons from underground aquifers in the Lambourn valley to irrigate its golf course.

The Lambourn is just one of southern England's famous chalk streams under threat by four years of drought. The NRA said that in contrast to its sister river draining the Berkshire downs, the Pang, one of 40 waterways identified earlier this year by the NRA as dangerously low due to excessive abstraction, the Lambourn

When people turn off hoses only to see golf courses being sprayed, emotions are sure to run high. Louise Hidalgo reports

is one of the least abstracted rivers in the Thames region.

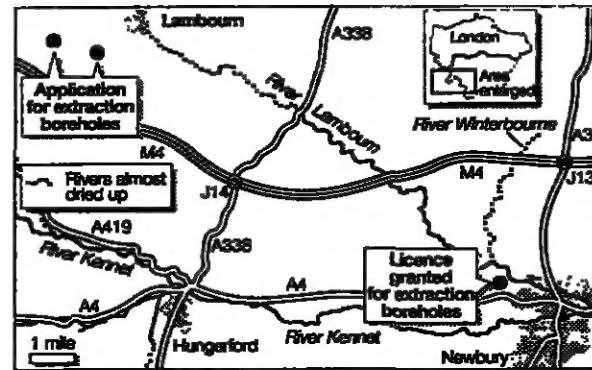
The 33 abstraction licences from the river and the underground chalk aquifers that feed it — most for agricultural use but two for golf courses — and Thames Water's licence to pump 7.7 megalitres a day for public supply, account for only 4 per cent of the effective rainfall into the river valley in an average year. This compares with 40 per cent from the Pang, a figure that the NRA, in negotiation with Thames Water, has reduced to prevent the river suffering further.

Many residents along the Lambourn's banks are angered at applications for abstraction licences for golf courses and racing gallops, seen by some as little more than luxuries at a time when people are being asked to conserve water. "Is this the

thin end of the wedge?" asked one former district councillor at a public meeting in Newbury where more than 200 people gathered to have their concerns answered by the NRA.

The NRA has made it clear that Shi Tenjo, and Shadwell Stables if it is granted the licence it wants to extract from a borehole on the Lambourn Downs to water its gallops, are to be tightly regulated. Water can be drawn only during the winter months, and then only if the river's flow is high enough, which it has not been for the past two winters.

The issue has stirred strong feelings locally. "It is a highly emotive subject when people try not to overuse hoses only to see golf courses being sprayed," said Marion Pat-



terson, who lives near where the Shi Tenjo golf course is being built.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England has made public its concern that demand for leisure facilities and golf courses in southern England, where dozens of applications for new courses landscaped with lakes are before planners, is straining stretched water supplies.

According to monitoring by Friends of the Earth of applications over the past 18 months for abstraction licences, at least 99 have

been for the irrigation of golf courses, almost half of them in the Thames region. Liana Stopples, of the environmental pressure group, said: "The problem the NRA faces is that it cannot distinguish on moral grounds between use of water for a golf course and for agricultural irrigation."

Planning authorities are also beginning to question whether they should not be given more powers to turn down applications on the grounds of water supply. "At the moment it does seem a

case of the right and left hand not working in tandem," Chris Watts, assistant director of development services for Newbury District Council, said.

□ The Isles of Scilly celebrated the defeat of the drought yesterday with the opening of Britain's first desalination plant.

Three years of drought, and an annual influx of tourists that can treble the 1,500 population, had reduced the islands' supply of natural water to an all-time low. Council officials had feared it could run out by the summer's end, and have twice declared an official drought.

Although water charges are likely to rise by a third, the technology should provide a third of peak summer-time needs. From today the £265,000 Dutch-supplied plant will blend 150,000 gallons of seawater a day with supplies from boreholes to produce 50,000 gallons of drinking water a day. During winter months, when demand is reduced, it will run at half capacity.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman is abducted by raiders

A 41-year-old woman was bound, gagged and blindfolded by an armed gang that abducted her from her farmhouse home near Sevenoaks in Kent yesterday and dumped her 10 miles away.

The woman was asleep with her common-law husband when three masked raiders with a gun and baseball bat broke in to the farmhouse at Ide Hill at about 3.15am. A 15-year-old boy, a family friend, was also in the house.

The boy and the man were handcuffed. The gang took the woman with them as well as £1,000, three shotguns and a rifle. The woman was found safe and well at 8am at Dormans Land, Surrey. She had minor abrasions.

Fourth accused

A fourth person appeared in Barking magistrates' court yesterday charged in connection with the murder of Alison Marwarling, 24, and her father Matthew, 62, Bernard Laing, 20, of Newham, London, is charged with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. The victims' bodies were found in a shallow grave after disappearing from their house in Barking, east London, on April 23.

Trunk road fees

Private developers will have to pay more towards trunk road improvements under proposals announced yesterday by John MacGregor, the transport secretary. Whereas now just one developer pays for improvements if their scheme increases traffic, under the proposals costs will be shared with others. Mr MacGregor said: "The new system will spread the burden more evenly."

Official named

Martin Easta, 44, a director of the National Audit Office, is to be chief executive of the new Local Government Commission, which will review municipal structures in England over the next five years, it was announced yesterday. Mr Easta was chief executive of Harlow District Council in Essex before working as a management consultant. He joined the audit office three years ago.

No wrongdoing

David Bookbinder, former leader of Derbyshire County Council, was cleared of any wrongdoing yesterday after an inquiry into his use of a council-owned limousine to travel to Heathrow airport in April on a private trip to Russia. He stepped down as council leader in January.

Murder charge

Martin Vaughan, 26, of Reading, appeared in court yesterday charged with stabbing two men to death. Kevin McGrath, 28, also of Reading, was accused of causing grievous bodily harm. Both were remanded in custody by city magistrates.

Prisoners gain lifeline in seven hours of freedom

Town visits allow inmates to maintain close contact with their families, reports Richard Ford

TODAY the white wire mesh gates at Britannia jail in Norwich will open and a group of inmates will walk out to spend seven hours away from the routine of prison life.

Robert, 34, serving a 12-month sentence for actual bodily harm, will be met by his girlfriend and will spend the day at home in the city, visiting his mother and seeing friends. Other prisoners will spend the day wandering round Norwich or travelling to Great Yarmouth as part of a scheme of town visits started four months ago.

The aim is to help prisoners maintain relationships with their families by allowing them close, regular contact outside the prison visiting room. It is hoped that maintaining relationships will make it easier when an inmate is released and will cut the risk of reoffending.

Stephen Honey, head of Britannia prison, said: "This will be a gradual trend in the prison system because the Woolf enquiry stressed the importance of a system that allows prisoners to maintain links with family and friends." He said strict rules were essential to ensure the scheme was not abused, adding that the public would not accept more serious offenders being given a town visit.

William, a 29-year-old father of two who is serving two years for fraud, said that during prison visits many prisoners were reluctant to express their feelings or talk about family matters because of a lack of privacy.

"You don't want somebody else to overhear you expressing your feelings. It's embarrassing to have to talk about your emotions in front of other prisoners. The result is that often a visit is frustrating and leads to rows," he said. "Some people go into jail and within two or three months they have lost their wives and girlfriends because contact is so limited."



New hope: a prisoner looks out to a world beyond bars

On his first town visit last weekend, William and his wife booked into a small hotel where the proprietor let them use a microwave to heat a spicy African-style stew that had been brought from his house in Clapham, southwest London. "Of course the physical side of the relationship is important and town visits make that possible, but they also help because you no longer focus on your release date. The most important date for both of you is the next town visit."

Some prisoners who have been on town visits say their families have put pressure on them to keep out of trouble. Prisoners who are eligible for the scheme know that any breach of prison discipline or rules will result in the cancellation of a town visit. "It's a great incentive to keep your nose clean. For the lads on a longish sentence it helps break up the monotony of being inside," said Robert.

The prison staff is not convinced that there has been a big improvement in prisoner behaviour, though they say there is more compliance about going to work and getting up in the morning. Neither has the scheme had much effect on younger in-

mates, many of whom have failed to take up the opportunity. The older inmates say this is because most of their friends are in the jail anyway. Prison staff suggest that younger inmates do not think beyond the next 24 hours and continue to get into trouble, making them ineligible.

Low-risk category D prisoners can apply for town visits after two months in jail if there are satisfactory discipline reports, while category C prisoners can apply after four months. Higher category prisoners cannot apply.

Since the scheme started there have been 164 town visits, but early difficulties have led to stricter regulations. Initially visits were allowed with a variety of relatives, but even some prisoners thought these rules too lax. Last month they were tightened so visits are allowed only with parents, wives, grandparents or established partners, who must produce a visiting order as a means of identification.

Three prisoners have absconded and two are still at large, while five have been up to 30 minutes late returning. The names of prisoners interviewed have been changed to protect their identities.

10p buys a 'fix' for beermat addicts

BY DAVID YOUNG

A SCRUMMAGE of collectors at Cardiff Arms Park yesterday demonstrated that what a glass is placed on can be just as addictive as its contents.

Members of the British Beermat Collectors Society, many attired in the type of anorak and T-shirt favoured by train-spotters and most displaying the type of girth associated with the brewing business, met to compare, swap and sell prized examples of the beermat printer's art.

However, despite a membership of 4,000 and with collectors coming from Scandinavia and Germany to yesterday's get-together, beermat collecting remains a hobby for the true amateur enthusiast.

A bid of 10p would have been enough to secure one of the older mats on sale yesterday. Top prices, said Gerry David, a family welfare court officer from Cardiff who organised yesterday's meeting, seldom exceeded £5.

"Most people drift into the hobby because they pick up beermats to pass on to people that they know are already collectors," he said. "That is how I started and now I have 15,000 cluttering up my home."

Among yesterday's exhibitors was Major Steen Borup-Neilsen, who works for the Danish defence ministry in Copenhagen. He flew in to Cardiff with a bulging suitcase containing 7,000 beermats, which he planned to swap with other collectors.

"I started collecting beermats when I first did my national service in Germany and stuck them away in a cupboard," he said. "Ten years later I discovered them and since then I have become deeply involved. It is a good way of combining your social life with collecting."

The British society realises that not everyone shares its enthusiasm and has formed a liaison group with brewers so that individuals can stop pestering them for mats. When new ranges are launched, brewers send a parcel of examples to the society for distribution.

Edinburgh festival finds new talent on its doorstep

BY SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

PAST Edinburgh International Festivals have celebrated the unjustly ignored artistic achievements of places such as Czechoslovakia, South America, Japan and Spain. The new director, Brian McMaster, has found this year's missing culture on his doorstep.

"A year ago I had no idea of the wealth and breadth of Scottish music," Mr McMaster, formerly the managing director of Welsh National Opera, said. "I heard some old tapes, then BBC Scotland broadcast a series of 32 two-hour programmes dedicated to it which opened my eyes and ears, and I decided to give it a proper place in the festival."

Mr McMaster hopes Scotland's neglected musical heritage will help the three-week season, which opens on Sunday, break the 70 per cent box office barrier, which has been an increasingly elusive target. Last year's 67 per cent meant a £179,000 loss that has to be made up by 1994.

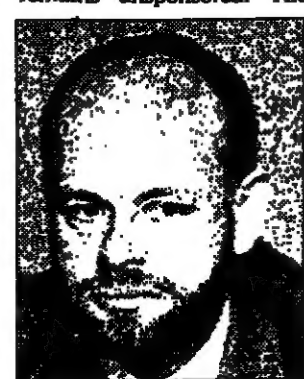
Home-grown music is one of the three main elements of the 1992 festival, the others being a reappraisal of the life and work of Tchaikovsky to mark the centenary of the composer's death next year, and the plays of Harley Granville Barker and C.P. Taylor.

The Scottish music programme ranges from Celtic

chants to the composer James MacMillan's new percussion concerto, which will be all of 20 days old when Evelyn Glennie gives it a Scottish premiere.

Cantatas composed for himself by the seventeenth-century Aberdonian male soprano John Abell will be a feature. Abell claimed he gave his finest performance when he was threatened with wild boars by the king of Poland unless he sang. The last sound of the festival will be the Highland bagpipes of George Macilwham, joining the Scottish Chamber Orchestra in a reel.

Although Mr McMaster has exceeded his sponsorship target of £750,000 by £15,000, the Scottish season remains unsponsored. The



McMaster: "discovered" Scottish music last year

festival is benefiting by £60,000 from the European Arts Festival, which is ensuring performances by the Pina Bausch Dance Ensemble.

Other highlights will be performances by the Mark Morris Dance Group of the United States and a concert performance of Tchaikovsky's rarely seen opera, *The Oprichnik*.

Frank Dunlop, the last director, made a bitter attack on the Edinburgh Fringe last year, describing it as a "Tower of Babel of the arts", over-endowed with stand-up comedians and controlled by publicists, and with too little drama.

Mr McMaster disagrees. "The Fringe is a great asset to the festival, but it's only as good as its audience. Stand-up comedy is the popular form of entertainment, and the major stand-up comics are in Edinburgh."

Famous names on the Fringe include Eleanor Bron, Miles Kingdon and Paul Merton, and there are almost 11,000 performances of more than 1,000 shows, compared with 248 performances of 97 projects in the festival proper. The theatre offers 249 world premieres, 23 Shakespeare productions and a new play by Neil Innes.

Down-and-outs ban, page 14
Saturday Review, page 26

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Psychosis of fear drives Muslims to abandon Bosnia

SLAVKO Budimir, secretary for the People's Defence of the northern Bosnian town of Prijedor, sits with a fat file of applications before him. They are the single sheets filled in by people who want to leave Prijedor. "We have no right to stop anyone who wants to go," he says. In Topusko, the nearest United Nations headquarters, Charles Kirudja, a senior official, spluttered: "These guys start to preach human rights to us."

According to Mr Budimir, up to 3,000 Muslims have applied to quit Prijedor in the past 15 days and this has nothing to do with "ethnic cleansing". The UN High Commissioner for Refugees says that Serb leaders are trying to expel 28,000 people from northern Bosnia and they will not be "blackmailed" into abetting this deportation. "Even some Serbs want to leave," Mr Budimir says, not adding that most of these people are probably from mixed families. "Look, all these forms say they want to go for 'material' reasons. After all, there's not much work here."

As the UN Human Rights Commission prepared to meet in New York, and the words "war crimes trials" were mentioned as a possible consequence of its work, Mr Budimir might be thinking about his future. "Look," he said, "all this has to do with forces over my head. There is no reason for anyone to leave, nor do I support this." Mr

Women speak in frightened whispers as they wait to join an exodus from a land of fantasy and horror. Tim Judah joins the queue wishing to leave town in Prijedor



Budimir's office opens at 2 o'clock. A queue of 100 Muslim women waits in the blazing sun. With an eye over their shoulders to the distracted policeman charting a pretty girl, the women whisper that they all have permission to leave but that they are desperately trying to add their sons and husbands to the list. Their menfolk are in Serb detention camps. "All, all of them," they hiss.

Mr Budimir claimed: "Nobody is being detained." When it is pointed out that the whole world has seen the Serb

how her son was killed. Every one has a horror story to tell. "They (Serb soldiers) sat my sister down, put sunglasses on her and shot her twice in the mouth," a young woman says. "Her daughter found her and went to the basement where the others were hiding and said: 'Mummy is asleep or dead.'" This is the story the woman has heard. There is no way to verify it, and it may not be true, but it is a typical story of the psychosis of fear that is poisoning the exodus from Bosnia.

In the terror state of northern Bosnia, meeting a Muslim family for a chat is not a simple business. The women in front of Mr Budimir's office shrink in fright at the suggestion. "They could just come after you had gone and kill us," one says. But Mira agrees. She idles slowly on her bike 50 yards ahead, guiding the way to the Muslim quarters of town. Hundreds of armed men are in the sun, in cafes or guard duty around any building of any significance. Mira, 20, who had been queuing for permission to leave, is a Serb. Her husband is a Muslim.

"They shot my brother in Banja Luka," she said. "He refused to put on a Serbian uniform." It is the custom to leave one's shoes on the doorstep of Muslim houses here. But, to avoid attracting unwelcome attention, those of foreign visitors are quickly whipped inside. The living room is pockmarked with bullet holes. "Five days after my sons were arrested, the police kicked down the door and fired into the house," Fuzad, the father,

said. "My wife went to get flour the other day, and when they saw her name on her identity card they turned her away, saying that it was not for Muslims." Mira's husband, Arif, says: "We just cannot live here any more."

Police pounce as the visitors to Prijedor return to their car. An attempt to cross the River Sava into the UN-protected area of Croatia at Bosanska Dubica is thwarted. The UN flag flies tantalisingly close just over the bridge. "If they try to get across — shoot 'em," orders an officer of the military police. Andrej Gustinic, of Reuters news agency, is hauled in for an hour's questioning. Soldiers scour the car. I am ordered to gather biscuit crumbs from the road and take my dirt away with me. Gunfire rattles through the early evening, but Bosanska Dubica is a long way from the front.

Over the river in the oasis of peace created by the UN in Serb-held territories in Croatia, Mr Kirudja says of Bosnian Serb leaders: "They live in a world of fantasies. They really believe what they tell you."

Mr Kirudja, a Kenyan, does not shrink from advocating military force in Bosnia. "They are scared of intervention. It has made these people think about personal responsibility. Radmilic Pasic [the mayor] asked me if he could be a refugee in my country. He was only half joking."

Talks collapse, page 1
Siren voice, page 10
Leading article and letters, page 11



Show of force: Edward Perkins, American ambassador to the UN, backing the use of military action to ensure delivery of humanitarian aid in Bosnia

Splintered republic waits in hope for return of territory

The UN horse-trading has left Bosnia in the lurch, with no guarantees of lost land being restored, Roger Boyes writes

THE Yugoslav peace talks underway in Brussels now have a firm basis: in two resolutions the United Nations has authorised the West to use "all measures necessary", clearly including force, to relieve Bosnia's suffering. Given that similar phrasing was used to justify the war against President Saddam Hussein, the UN resolutions ought to focus the minds of the Serb leadership. But in practice, as the Serbs well know, there is almost no way of enforcing them.

The first resolution seeks an end to "all military activity" in Bosnia, and article 3 of the second urges "all authorities in the former Yugoslavia and all military forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina" to comply with the provisions of the resolutions. Both calls would require the disarming of Serb units, but who would be able to carry out that task?

The outcome of several days of UN horse-trading is that Bosnia has been left in the lurch. True, the West can now make credible threats, but only where humanitarian aid is involved.

There is no brief to intervene on behalf of Bosnian territorial integrity, and it is this that has become the crucial question needing to be resolved before the huge peace conference planned for London on August 26 to 28. Does the West want to restore Bosnia-Herzegovina in its old borders or not?

The European Community and America have recognised Bosnia. There is even an early, somewhat perfunctory, reference in Thursday's UN resolutions to acknowledge "the need to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence" of the republic.

But the efforts of Lord Carrington, the EC peace broker, have for many months been underpinned by the assumption that the republic will have to be partitioned peacefully by Serbs, Croats and Muslims. There must thus be some plain speaking, either in Brussels or London.

If the West wishes to defend the territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina, it has only three options: to declare war on Serbia and drive it out of the republic; to authorise a UN protectorate for the whole of Bosnia; or to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia and allow it to defend itself. If, on the other hand, the EC peacemakers see the partitioning of Bosnia-Herzegovina as the only way to prevent a Balkan war, they should say so immediately.

Such a move would be seen as a betrayal by the Bosnian government, but it would have the effect of very quickly silencing all Serb and Croat guns. In short, partitioning would be politically dis-

honourable, but it would almost certainly save lives.

As Nato experts met yesterday to work out the military dimensions of the UN resolutions, it became plain that the use of force in Bosnia would be a very expensive and elaborate operation. Possible military options to support the humanitarian mission in Bosnia could include seizing control of Yugoslav air space, warning and then eliminating hostile artillery, and carving out safe havens for refugees.

The UN has at least given the military a bone to chew on. The essential problem, however, has not been solved. The war will continue, and the risk of it spreading to Kosovo or elsewhere in the Balkans has not been affected either way by the UN decisions.

Only a precise statement of Western aims in Bosnia-Herzegovina can start that process. Of the three options for securing the territorial integrity of Bosnia (war with Serbia, a UN protectorate or arming the Bosnian fighters) the last appears to be the most feasible.

Baroness Thatcher in her appeal in *The New York Times*, which has done so much to tilt American public opinion in favour of military intervention, raises the possibility of arming the Bosnians. The US Senate has started to investigate the possibility,



Thatcher: appeal tilted opinion in America

and the Islamic states in particular are urging the UN to relax its blanket arms embargo against the former Yugoslavia. Naturally, delivering arms to the Bosnian Muslims would escalate the fighting in the first instance. That however is a thin argument. Air-dropping weapons to Polish partisans in the second world war could arguably, have been described as "escalation"; it was however the correct thing to do. Bosnia has been identified as the victim of Serb aggression.

If this is not authorised soon by the UN, there is a real risk that some Islamic states will independently supply weaponry to the Bosnian Muslims, further complicating the war.

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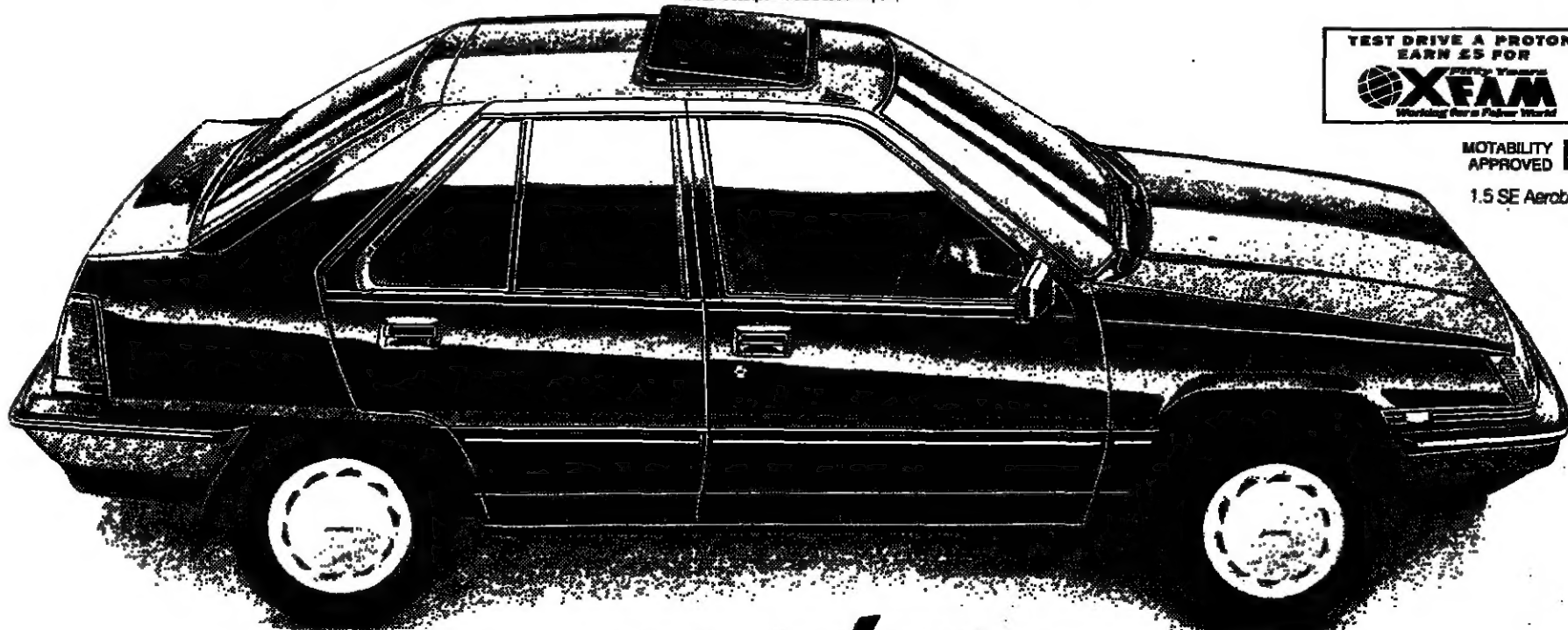
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Hardline Marchais scraps keystone of Leninist faith

THE French Communist Party, one of the last bastions of Stalinist orthodoxy, has been thrown into turmoil after Georges Marchais, its seemingly immortal leader, abandoned a pillar of the faith. To add insult to injury, he did it in New York, the cradle of capitalism.

M. Marchais, whose party still commands the support of two million French voters, took the momentous step of declaring that he was not overly attached to the principle of democratic centralism, the doctrine of command from the top downwards enshrined as *de rigueur* by the Comintern in 1920. The doctrine, which ensured unanimity in all decisions, would soon be jettisoned in favour of something more pluralist, M. Marchais told an audience of 20 at Columbia University.

To outsiders, squabbles over Leninist doctrine might seem about as useful as discussing the tea on the Titanic half-way down to the seabed. However, M. Marchais's unexpected pronouncement made headlines in Paris and set the cat

The leader of France's Communists, on an American visit, has upset comrades at home by abandoning democratic centralism, writes Charles Bremner

among the pigeons at the Place Colonel Fabien, the fortress-like seat where the French politburo spends so much of its time purging dissidents.

"He cannot do that without calling a congress," spluttered Jean-Pierre Brard, the Communist mayor of Montreuil, who was upset over the biggest bombshell to hit the party since it abandoned the concept of the dictatorship of the proletariat in 1976. That event prompted mass resignations, among them that of Louis Althusser, the late philosopher who strangled his wife soon afterwards.

"He does not really mean it," Jack Ralite, a former minister and reformist outcast from the leadership, said. True to the old *Pravda*-style form, *L'Humanité*, the party daily, fulminated against the

bourgeois media for distorting the words of its secretary-general and devoted its front page to a Kremlin-style photograph of him shaking the hand of Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general.

M. Marchais's first trip to the New World, 500 years after Columbus and one year after the collapse of the Soviet Union, has provided a field day of nostalgia for those who miss the good old days of communist ritual. M. Marchais reassured the faithful he would return home a Communist.

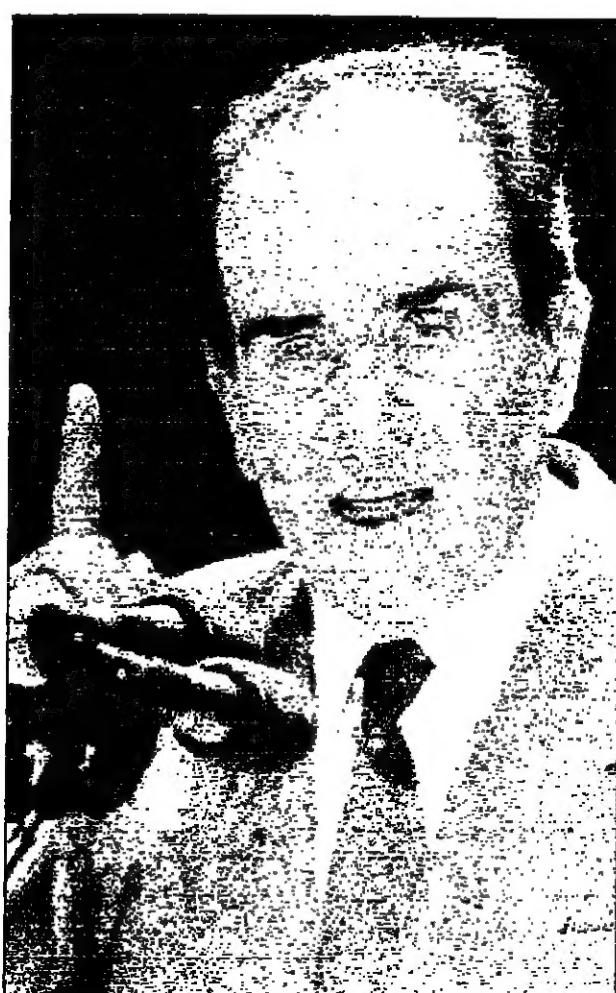
With the staggering aplomb that has earned him the affection of many non-believers, M. Marchais has toured the East Coast holding "exchanges of views" and meeting "progressive figures" — all two of them, Gus Hall, 82, boss of the American Commu-

nist Party, and Ramsey Clark, the eccentric former attorney-general in the Lyndon Johnson administration.

He has also, according to *L'Humanité*, acquainted the US media with his party's positions. *Liberation* mischievously reported that "the US media" consisted of a trainee reporter from an Alabama newspaper, M. Marchais's meeting with Mr Hall, the master of a party of 15,000, was also hailed as historic.

Until last year, M. Marchais spent his summers in dachas in the Crimea or Romania, a guest of the local comrades. His visit to New York and Washington came after the easing of US visa rules. Like many current and former French communists, M. Marchais had long been banned as a danger to Uncle Sam's shores.

For the secretary-general and his flock, a church that has lost its Rome, the mockery of the bourgeois media is just another test on the long and ever lonelier journey towards the inevitable victory of the proletariat.



Marchais: *L'Humanité* insists his words of wisdom have been distorted by the bourgeois media

Improving harvest reaps farmers' ire

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

AFTER several months of doomsday predictions about this year's harvest, the key grain-producing republics of the former Soviet Union are gradually admitting that it will be better than expected and could break all records in Kazakhstan at least.

With more than 40 per cent of the harvest complete, Russia is expected to produce between 94 million and 96 million tonnes, 5 per cent up on last year. Ukraine is expected to produce 40 million tonnes and Kazakhstan 30 million.

But farmers are complaining about the purchase prices set by the state and about the government's management of agriculture. An organisation called the Farmers' Collective Action Movement recently staged a series of demonstrations in cities across Russia protesting that the whole agricultural sector was on the verge of financial collapse.

The government, in fact, seems caught between three different interest groups: the producers, the collective farm chairmen and the central agricultural bureaucracy. Most of

the producers just want the best price for their grain and believe that time is on their side. A large number of collective farm chairmen fear that the whole system of collective farms will shortly be dismantled, and fear the loss of their power. These are the people behind the action movement, which is calling for more central subsidies.

The rambling central bureaucracy, hardly changed from Soviet days, seems divided between those who see their livelihood vanishing if the market takes over and those who genuinely worry that, without an effective system of central purchasing, Russia could starve.

So far, the Russian government has been allowing the commodity exchanges to dictate prices, following as closely as it must to attract grain into state granaries. The rest of the central bureaucracy has largely been left to panic on the sidelines, including the security ministry (former KGB), which said last week that up to a third of the harvest could be lost if it were not in state silos.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Georgian minister released

Tbilisi: Ojopis released Roman Gvetsadze, the Georgian interior minister, but kept other officials hostage in Abkhazia, and ten people died when Georgian troops moved into the rebellious region, officials said.

The new violence was the most serious problem to face the former Soviet foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, since he became leader of his native Georgia in March. He said that he had no choice but to send troops into Abkhazia, an area of 100,000 people in western Georgia that declared independence last month.

Militant supporters of the former president, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, took 12 of Georgia's leading police officials hostage on Tuesday. The hostages reportedly were being held in the village of Kohora in the Gali region of Abkhazia, about 170 miles northwest of Tbilisi. (AP)

Talks stalled

Riga: Talks about the withdrawal of the Russian military from Latvia were deadlocked after the Latvian government rejected demands made by Moscow, including a call for a change in Latvia's proposed restrictive legislation on citizenship for Russians.

Euro MP dies

Bastia: Yvon Briant, 38, an independent French politician and European MP, was killed with his wife and son when a plane taking them to a meeting in Ales on the forthcoming referendum on the Maastricht treaty crashed into a mountain in Corsica. (AFP)

Rockets fired

Moscow: Azerbaijani forces fired two salvos of Grad rockets from Agdam into the heart of Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, the Armenian enclave, killing and wounding an unspecified large number of people, Tass reported. (AFP)

Island isolated

Rome: The Italian government has banned all shipping within a mile of the prison island of Pianosa, where convicted Mafia gangsters were sent last month. Anyone fishing near the island faces up to two years in jail. (Reuters)

Hands lost

Elche, Spain: Two people lost hands and 180 suffered other injuries when gangs of youths threw illegal fireworks at a traditional fiesta in southeastern Spain, doctors and police said. Six people were being treated in hospital for burns and eye injuries. (Reuters)

Chain reaction

Lisbon: A Portuguese man, 28, who was seen by police snatching a gold necklace from an elderly lady and then swallowing it, is to undergo surgery to recover the chain after three days of laxatives failed to shift it, the *Publico* newspaper reported. (Reuters)

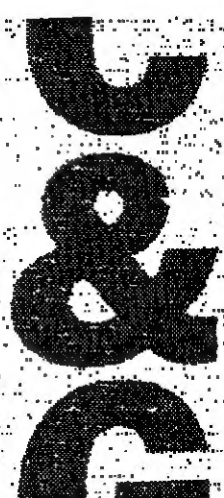
Joke falls flat

Athens: Coca-Cola will apologise to Greece for an "insulting" Italian advertisement showing the Parthenon's marble columns tapered like the drink's familiar bottle, said Carlos Caselli, manager of the company's Greek office. (AP)

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Bush assured of the fireworks but searches for the fizz



Barbara Bush: shrewd political operator

JUST months ago the American television networks were planning minimal coverage of next week's Republican convention. Not any more. They are now sending huge teams and all their top anchors. With President Bush in parious straits, his party riven by ideological disputes and delegates in a state of panic, they anticipate five days of high political drama to match Houston's torrential August thunderstorms.

The Houston astrodome has been hung with 350 giant Stars and Stripes. A quarter of a million red, white and blue balloons (113 for every delegate) are ready to drop from the heavens, and the grand finale will be a spectacular fireworks display inside the cavernous 15-storey stadium. The display guarantees that Mr Bush will leave Houston next Friday with a resounding

bang, but what he really needs most desperately is one enormous bounce.

Two new national polls yesterday showed him trailing Bill Clinton by 18 and 19 points. One also gave the Democrats a 14-point overall advantage in this November's congressional races, threatening a wholesale ejection of Republicans from House and Senate. Others show the Arkansas governor now leading in 28 states, including the president's adopted home of Texas, and Mr Bush in one.

No sitting president has ever recovered from such a dismal position. Mr Bush knows he has to transform a potentially joyless coronation into an electric send-off for the autumn campaign with a performance surpassing even his 1988 acceptance speech. If not, he should start planning his Kennebunkport retirement, only the fourth incumbent this century to be denied re-election.

The convention organisers have pulled out all the stops. Barbara Bush, outpolling Hillary Clinton by 63 points to 34, is to give an unusual First Lady's address on family values. The "Gipper", Ronald Reagan, 81, has been coaxed from his Californian retirement to rally the faithful, though the Great Commun-

cator may simply inspire unhappy comparisons. Gerald Ford will speak, so will Pat Robertson, the evangelist. Patrick Buchanan, who savaged Mr Bush during the primaries, will also exhort the party to pull together.

By contrast Dan Quayle, the vice-president, will be kept largely out of sight. Mr Quayle is not only trailing Al Gore, Mr Clinton's running mate, by 63 points to 19 in personal popularity, but his old nemesis, James Baker, is now Mr Bush's omnipotent new campaign chief.

The Clinton-Gore ticket, expanded to include Hillary Clinton, will be shamelessly painted as the most liberal and subversive of American values in living memory, as all previous Democratic tickets have been. "In the days ahead, when the Republicans raise their old flag of fear, you tell them no, thanks, this time we are going to vote on our hopes," Mr Clinton exhorted supporters this week. If the attacks become too personal, the Democrats intend to raise the business activities of Mr Bush's sons.

The president's real task is to provide a compelling vision for a second term that will unite the warring factions of his own party. Richard Nixon's speechwriter, Ray Price, whose last presidential assignment was his boss's Watergate resignation speech, has been given that overwhelming responsibility and few can envy him.

The extent of Republican disarray was vividly underscored on Thursday when Mrs Bush declared that there should be no mention of abortion or homosexuality — "personal things" — in the party manifesto. That directly contradicted her husband's professed support for a constitutional ban on abortions, and did so on the very day the party's platform committee completed a manifesto specifically demanding such a ban.

Behind her benign, grandmotherly appearance, Mrs Bush is a shrewd political operator. Polls show more than half of all Republicans, let alone the wider electorate, oppose a constitutional ban. Mrs Bush was appealing to moderate voters to offset a platform committee packed with conservatives and Christian fundamentalists that has produced the most socially conservative Republican manifesto yet (members disputed whether it should say America or Jesus was the "last best hope for man").

That is the juggling act that Mr Bush must perform on a grander scale in Houston. He must placate and cement a conservative base which views him with extreme suspicion, but must also fight the centre ground where Mr Clinton has raised his standard.

The tension will be evident not just on social issues, but also on the economic front. Prominent conservatives such as Jack Kemp, his housing secretary, are demanding a return to the tax-cutting, growth-promoting supply side policies of the 1980s while Mr Bush and other mainstreamers stress cutting the record deficit.

Like his wife, Mr Bush undoubtedly wishes the abortion issue would go away, but Republican pro-life campaigners have an odd way of showing their gratitude for his continued support. They are ensuring the issue remains firmly in the public eye. All next week they will mount demonstrations outside Houston abortion clinics.

Spotting for fight, page 1

America to fly UN troops into Somalia

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

UNITED Nations guards for humanitarian relief agencies and food convoys are expected to arrive in Somalia within a fortnight after the American government offered a military transport plane to carry them to Mogadishu and the United Nations vowed to speed up the deployment.

The UN Security Council, stung by criticism of its slow response to the civil war and famine in Somalia, accepted the American offer late on Thursday. Li Dacuo, China's UN ambassador and the security council president, sent a letter to the 15 council member states saying he would approve the operation by late last night unless there were objections. His spokesman said there would be no need to adopt a council resolution to send in the 500 troops and

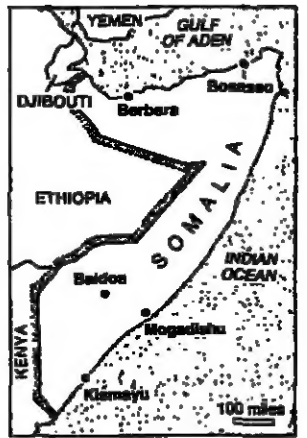
that "an exchange of letters would suffice".

The troops are expected to come from Pakistan and will be responsible for security at Mogadishu's harbour and international airport as well as guarding convoys of lorries taking food to relief agencies' distribution points. They are likely to be under the command of Brigadier-General Amrta Shaheen, the head of the UN military observer unit already in Mogadishu. He is an experienced Pakistani combat commander who has impressed observers with his swift grasp of the chaotic situation in Somalia where, as a result of 19 months of civil war and drought, at least 1.5 million people are starving.

UN officials hope that the limited deployment of troops to protect relief supplies will be extended to other ports, such as Kismayu, Bosaso, which has been the scene of recent heavy fighting between Issak tribesmen and Islamic fundamentalists, and Berbera, and along the main routes to the interior of the country. "If these ports could be established as a beach-head for a massive relief operation we might be able to make a real difference," said a senior UN official yesterday. Muhammad Salvoon, the UN special envoy to Somalia and a retired Algerian diplomat, favours dividing the country into four operational zones for distributing food aid and the administration of longer-term development projects.

Seeds and tools are desperately needed by Somali farmers before the rains come in October. Agencies such as the International Committee of the Red Cross are anxious to get agricultural activities going before the population becomes dependent on food aid. Almost all the farmers have lost their livestock, seeds and equipment to looters.

In Kismayu, the Red Cross has been conducting an agriculture and livestock survey and the UN Children's Fund (Unicef) has been trying to rebuild wells and irrigation systems before the rains. "It is vital that we get people back on their feet so they can plant this year," said Nur Hussein, a Kenyan. "If they don't they will have their hands out for food for years to come."



PEOPLE

Hinckley liable for damages

A federal judge in Washington ruled that John Hinckley, the man who tried to kill President Reagan in 1981, is liable for damages to three men wounded in the shooting.

A US district judge, John Garrett Penn, said that Hinckley is liable for losses suffered by the former presidential press secretary, James Brady, and two security men, Thomas Delahanty and Timothy McCarthy. The judge said a trial must be held to determine how much Hinckley owes, and that the question of whether Hinckley must pay punitive damages must also be determined at a trial.

Willi Stoph, 78, the former East German prime minister charged with manslaughter for deaths of would-be escapees at the Berlin Wall, has been released from custody in Moabit jail, Berlin, because of poor health. He must surrender his passport and report to police weekly.

Thousands of Americans are buying a set of nine Elvis Presley stamps issued by St Vincent and the Grenadines in the Caribbean to mark the 15th anniversary of his death. The American commemorative Elvis stamp is not due out until January.

Bulgaria's ousted communist leader, Todor Zhivkov, 80, denied embezzlement charges at his final court defence in Sofia. The court will deliver a verdict on September 4.



Stardust memories: Woody Allen and Mia Farrow, in the 1986 film *Hannah and Her Sisters*. Now he seeks custody of their three children

Curtain descends on tale of New York's oddest couple

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

WOODY Allen's life has often imitated his art, and this week the veteran film-maker and doyen of the angst-ridden, filed suit against his long-time companion and muse, Mia Farrow, for custody of their natural child and two adopted

New Yorkers took the news personally, and with great sadness. The couple are regarded by many as mascots for the city: private, funny, tortured. Their unusual relationship (they have been lovers for more than 13 years, but have never lived together) seemed to reflect the eccentricity of New York itself.

Their separate apartments face each other across Central Park — his on the east side, hers on the west, where she lives with her nine children, five of whom are adopted. Woody Allen's daily peregrinations through the park have become part of city folklore, eagerly anticipated by tourists and residents alike.

The couple have acted together in eight of Allen's past 13 films, including *Husbands and Wives*, which opens in September. Allen is seeking

custody of three of the youngest children, including their biological son, Sachel, aged 4, but the details of the suit will not be known until a court hearing later this month.

By his own account, the role of parent did not come easily to Allen, 56, the actor-director whose portrayals of psychological insecurity and intense relationships seem to reflect his own life. "She is surrounded by kids and pets," he once said of Mia Farrow. "I live by myself across the park. I don't have to be there when the diapers are changed or anything really awful happens."

Ms Farrow, 47, has been married twice, to Frank Sinatra and André Previn (with whom she had three children, and adopted a further three).

Woody Allen's spokesman said yesterday: "He has never discussed his private life in public and does not wish to begin doing so now."

On the rare occasions he has talked about his relationship with Ms Farrow, Allen painted a picture of deep mutual affection — and distinct incompatibility between the

ways they liked to live. Allen's film *Alice* is a love-peace to Mia Farrow and a relationship between two conflicting personalities. "She's brought a completely different, meaningful dimension to my life," he once said, "yet the two of us have so little in common that it always amazes us."

Allen has also been through two divorces. His relationship with Ms Farrow is said to have foundered over her wish to adopt two more orphaned and handicapped children, a move reportedly opposed by Allen.

The apparent break-up of the Allen-Farrow ménage may signal the end of a great New York institution, but the remarkably fruitful professional relationship between the couple may yet survive. Last week Allen revealed that the couple would play husband and wife in his next film, *Manhattan Murder Mystery*, which is due to begin production next month.

Allen's spokesman said the casting of Ms Farrow was now probably "doubtful", in the circumstances, but in the lives of this pair, stranger things have happened.

Tobacco company targets gay men

BY BEN MACINTYRE

THE American tobacco industry, plagued by falling demand, is turning its attention to a new group of consumers: homosexuals.

Philip Morris Inc, the giant tobacco corporation reportedly planning to pay Margaret Thatcher up to \$1 million (£520,000) as an international political consultant, is about to launch an advertising campaign for a new brand of cigarettes, which is aimed partly at the gay community. Advertisements for Benson & Hedges Special Kings are due to appear in the next issue of *Genre*, a fashion magazine for homosexuals. This will be the first time a large tobacco company has advertised in the American gay press.

Philip Morris says the campaign in *Genre* is only part of a nationwide marketing effort aimed at all young, affluent smokers. Karen Daragan, a spokeswoman, said yesterday: "This product is aimed at adults who smoke, of both sexes and any sexual preference."

The company, which is behind the macho "Marlboro

men" advertisements, has been sharply criticised by anti-smoking groups, which oppose any type of target advertising, and by some gay rights activists. "I don't see how this can be construed as any kind of victory for gay rights," a spokeswoman for Lambda Legal Defense Funds, a homosexual lobby group, told the *New York Post*. Supporters of gay rights have pointed to an apparent contradiction in the company's policy of supporting Senator Jesse Helms, one of the most outspoken opponents of homosexuality, and the marketing appeal to gay smokers.

About one in four adult Americans smoke, but the incidence of smoking among homosexuals is slightly higher. Don Tuthill, publisher of *Genre*, has defended the advertisements as an indication of the growing importance of homosexuals in American society. And Steve Miller, of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, said yesterday: "This brings gays into the mainstream of consumers."

Victims of Japan seek apology

Tokyo: Ceremonies all over Japan today to honour its war dead on the 47th anniversary of its surrender in the second world war are being held amid the clamour of voices from mainland Asian victims of Japanese wartime brutality for apologies and compensation from the government (Joanna Pinar writes).

This week, 12 North Korean women, who identified themselves as former "comfort women" or sex slaves, demanded a clear apology from the government and compensation for their sufferings during and since the war.

Li Bok Nyo, 73, a North Korean from Pyongyang, told a Japanese citizens' group how she had been abducted by the Japanese military and forced to work in a brothel in north-east China. "I cannot die without hearing the Japanese government apologise," she told the delegation. Independent historians estimate that up to 200,000 Korean women were coerced into sexual slavery during the war.

Other ghastly wartime episodes have come to light in recent weeks including evidence of cannibalism by Japanese soldiers in the South Pacific during the closing days of the war.

Syria warned over Scuds

Jerusalem: Momechai Gur, Israel's deputy defence minister, said any Scud missile attack by Syria would lead to "all-out war". Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, said this week Syria had tested two Scuds capable of reaching all of Israel. The sixth round of Middle East peace talks between Israel, Syria, Lebanon and a Jordanian/Palestinian delegation opens in Washington on August 24 (AFP).

Poll boycotted

Beirut: The powerful Christian Phalangist party will not contest this month's Lebanese parliamentary elections, the country's first in 20 years, greatly boosting Christian opposition to holding the poll before Syria leaves Beirut on September 22.

Haitians held

Port-au-Prince: Haitian police detained 158 boat people minutes after the US Coast Guard forcibly returned them to their homeland. They were sent back this month under President Bush's directive ordering their repatriation. (AP)

Politician dies

Nairobi: Masinde Muliro, 72, the interim vice-chairman of the main opposition movement in Kenya, who was trying to reconcile feuding factions within the alliance, collapsed and died at Nairobi airport after visiting Britain. (Reuters)

Tone of assent

Rio de Janeiro: President Collor de Mello appealed to Brazilians to wear clothes in the colours of the green, yellow and blue Brazilian flag tomorrow as a show of support for him as Congress moves to impeach him over corruption charges. (Reuters)

Footling the bill

Calcutta: Vietnam and West Bengal, which is ruled by Marxists, are to stage a series of charity football matches throughout India to raise funds for Cuba, which is facing American sanctions. The organisers expect to collect up to £26,000. (AFP)

Salvador guerrillas take lesson for peace with guns ready

Left-wing fighters are waiting for government promises to be fulfilled, David Adams writes from Aguacayo

Nations silenced the guns. But implementation of the accords has been fraught with difficulties and delays. Only 20 per cent of the 7,000-strong army of the left-wing Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) has been demobilised, and the government has failed to fulfil important concessions, including land reforms.

The FMLN army is now camped at concentration points around the country awaiting orders to disarm. During the day rebels take classes to prepare for civilian life. The brightest are studying for selection for a new civilian police force to replace the paramilitary security forces that terrorised the coun-

try for two decades. Younger rebels with no education are taking a crash course in everything to try to catch up on missed schooling.

On a nearby building, José showed off a mural depicting a fighter breaking down the wall of ignorance with a giant pencil. "We have given up our arms for schoolbooks and pencils," he said. Well, not exactly, he admitted. While he no longer carries his M16 assault rifle, it sits in a guerrilla stockpile nearby closely guarded by the rebels. At a UN observer post a mile away, a metal cargo container designed for weapons collection stands empty.

Giovanni joined the guerrillas, aged ten. He is now 18



and studying in the ruins of the former village school. The building was originally built with American aid money in 1966 only to be later destroyed by Salvadoran air force planes carrying US-supplied bombs. "I learnt a lot in the struggle, but I missed a lot of school," said Giovanni, who explained that he joined the FMLN after his parents were killed by an army death squad.

Filling the time is a frustrating business, and some rebels are showing signs of impatience. Two guerrillas in Aguacayo were booted out of the ranks recently for posing naked in the ruins of the bombed-out church for an erotic art exhibition in the capital.

But there is time for some partying. As a hundred rebels waited to be bused into San Salvador for an important FMLN anniversary, male fighters filled the village square carrying ghetto-blasters and eating ice creams or carefully combing their hair and inspecting the results of a rare shave in portable mirrors.

The female fighters seemed less preoccupied with their appearance. A heavy-metal song, *The Final Countdown*, blared from one set of speakers, the rebels oblivious to the words that nearly spell out the closing chapter of armed struggle in their country.

At the Mister Tasty ice-cream stand with the only electricity line in the town, Carlos Arevalo explained the tragic history of Aguacayo.

1500 1000 1000 1000

Rafsanjani reforms attacked

Ayatollah mobilises Islamic militants

BY HAZRAT TEIMOURIAN

THE uneasy partnership of the past three years between President Rafsanjani of Iran and Ayatollah Khamenei, the spiritual and temporal leader of Iranian Islam, may be about to end.

After the bloody riots of May and June in the shanty towns surrounding big cities, the Rafsanjani government has been under attack from the ayatollah and the radicals who oppose his economic austerity programmes and his attempts to improve relations with the West.

The state-owned newspaper, *Kayhan*, described the cabinet last week as "the main perpetrator of sin in society". This week the *Tehran Times*, hitherto a presidential mouthpiece, came out in favour of the ayatollah's hardline foreign policy. From now on, the ayatollah had announced, only the most militant revolutionaries would be sent abroad as diplomats.

Only four months ago it seemed that Mr Rafsanjani

was well on course to becoming Iran's undisputed leader. He had manipulated the parliamentary elections to bar most of the incumbent radical deputies from standing again, on the pretext that they were not sufficiently versed in Islamic principles. Then the riots flared and the government resorted to repression, including the execution of ringleaders, to quell them.

The ayatollah, alarmed by the possibility of being reduced to a figurehead at the hands of Mr Rafsanjani and a compliant parliament, was emboldened. He decided to reassert himself as the formal successor to Ayatollah Khomeini, the late founder of the Islamic state.

On July 13, Ayatollah Khamenei addressed a gathering of Revolutionary Guards and other militants. He said that he would appoint the Basej militia, the most extreme branch of the guards and the successors to the teenage "human wave" volunteers of the Iran-Iraq war, as "the guardians of the divine values of the revolution". He exhorted the rest of the population to watch one another for signs of deviation from the Islamic codes of behaviour.

Many semi-governmental revolutionary organisations set up during the life of Khomeini joined the bandwagon, and a senior ayatollah, Ahmad Jannati, whose turn it was to deliver Tehran's Friday prayer sermon, attacked every tenet of Mr Rafsanjani's proposed reforms. He pledged that Iran would never allow "the return of the liberals to positions of influence". The spectre of a Mao-style cultural

revolution gripped the land. A week later, after reports of the harassment of semi-veiled women on the streets by the new Brigades of Ashura (named after the martyrdom of Hussein, the third imam of Shia Islam), the ayatollah told the militants not to restrict the scope of their responsibilities to trivial matters. They had to fight "the return of greed to the land".

Despite remarks claiming that he did not wish to see the government weakened, Ayatollah Khamenei was seen to be going for the jugular of Mr Rafsanjani's attempts to revive private capital and improve ties with the West.

Neither Mr Rafsanjani nor his government is able to inspire the masses of the poor to make sacrifices. Corruption affects every level of the vast bureaucracy, with the immediate family of the president controlling 400 companies. According to Western financial experts, their wealth exceeds £300 million.



Showing the flag: Pakistani girls in folk costume singing patriotic songs at a ceremony in Islamabad yesterday to celebrate 45 years of independence

Saddam in trouble as sanctions bite

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN RUWESHED ON THE JORDANIAN-IRAQI BORDER

FOR the first time since sanctions were imposed against Iraq two years ago this month, they are showing signs of taking their toll of the economy and could threaten the stability of President Saddam Hussein's regime.

A few weeks ago this desert crossing point was Iraq's economic gateway to the world, through which hundreds of lorries a day carried everything from UN-approved food and medicines to steel girders and spare parts banned under international law.

Today, however, the customs lot is nearly empty, as a dozen lorries carrying cigarettes, cooking oil and meat are inspected by Jordanian officers before being allowed to cross. "In May we had about 500 trucks crossing here every day, then the number dropped to about 200 last month and now there are only 50 to 60," said Aziz Absoul, the chief customs officer, who has been given strict instructions from Amman to ensure that only approved items are allowed into Iraq.

The change in Jordan's policy, which since the start of the Gulf conflict had turned a

blind eye to illegal exports to Baghdad, can be traced to June when Robert Cass, the visiting CIA director, pressured Amman into halting its contraband trade, estimated at a third of all goods destined to Iraq.

"The Jordanian economy has become stuck as it is on opening and importing everything, even medicines from Britain which need a shipping agent at Amman airport," said "Where we take us two days to clear for Baghdad, we now have to wait two weeks."

The impact of the move has been compounded by Saddam's response to the precarious economic position caused by steady depletion of the Iraqi dollar. His regime's officials have prominent Iraqi businessmen with at least 42% of their assets "frozen" in the West.

Although this rubble may only exacerbate the signs of reeling in his regime for scapegoats, nor is the suggestion he intends to his blood purge.



Rafsanjani: aimed to improve Western ties

NEWS IN BRIEF

Thousands trying to flee Kabul

Kabul: Tens of thousands of people tried to flee from the Afghan capital, taking advantage of a pause in fighting between government forces and rebel Mujahidin.

The respite came after days of intense rocket and artillery attacks on Kabul by forces loyal to Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the leader of Hezb-i-Islami, in which more than 1,000 people were killed or wounded. Officials said the government had limited its counter-offensive to allow rebel forces to pull back from areas east of the city, but would resume the push later.

People were trying to get out by road to the north and east. But the road to Jalalabad in the east was still closed about three miles from the city for people's safety, the defence ministry said. (AFP)

Spy blamed

Sydney: A Fretilin rebel official, Constantino Pinto, working as a spy for Indonesia, orchestrated the protest in East Timor last November which provoked a massacre by the army, an Australian report to the International Commission of Jurists says. (Reuters)

Li plans visit

Hanoi: Li Peng has confirmed that he will go to Vietnam this year, the first Chinese prime minister to do so since 1971. A dispute over the Spratly islands and their potential deposits of offshore oil has been raising tensions between Peking and Hanoi. (Reuters)

Islamic move

Kota Bharu, Malaysia: The ruling Muslim fundamentalist party in the Malaysian state of Kelantan is planning to make it Islamic before the next general election, which is due in 1995, said Fadzil Muhammad Noor, the leader of the group. (Reuters)

Airbus clue

Kathmandu: The crew of a Thai Airways Airbus that crashed into a mountain in Nepal two weeks ago, killing the 113 people on board, had difficulty lowering the wing flaps when they were preparing to land, according to investigators. (Reuters)

Sheath keepers

Tokyo: If Japan decides to join the peacekeeping force in Cambodia, its troops will be armed with condoms. Aids has been added to the official list of hazards facing Japanese troops serving abroad for the first time since the second world war. (Reuters)

Turkey turns on to 90s' naughties

The nation is embracing a soft-porn invasion, says Andrew Finkel

A NEW permissiveness has been spreading through Turkey's officially secular but almost entirely Muslim society since the election last autumn of a government opposed to censorship. Stripping Turkish housewives are not yet commonplace on television, but viewers can now watch a late-night European game show which involves suspender belts being shed for points.

"Turks learnt how to kiss from watching imported television series. The time has come to upgrade their knowledge," said Nuri Colakoglu, head of programming for the semi-pirate Show TV. At a religious rally in Istanbul recently a television set was burnt in disgust.

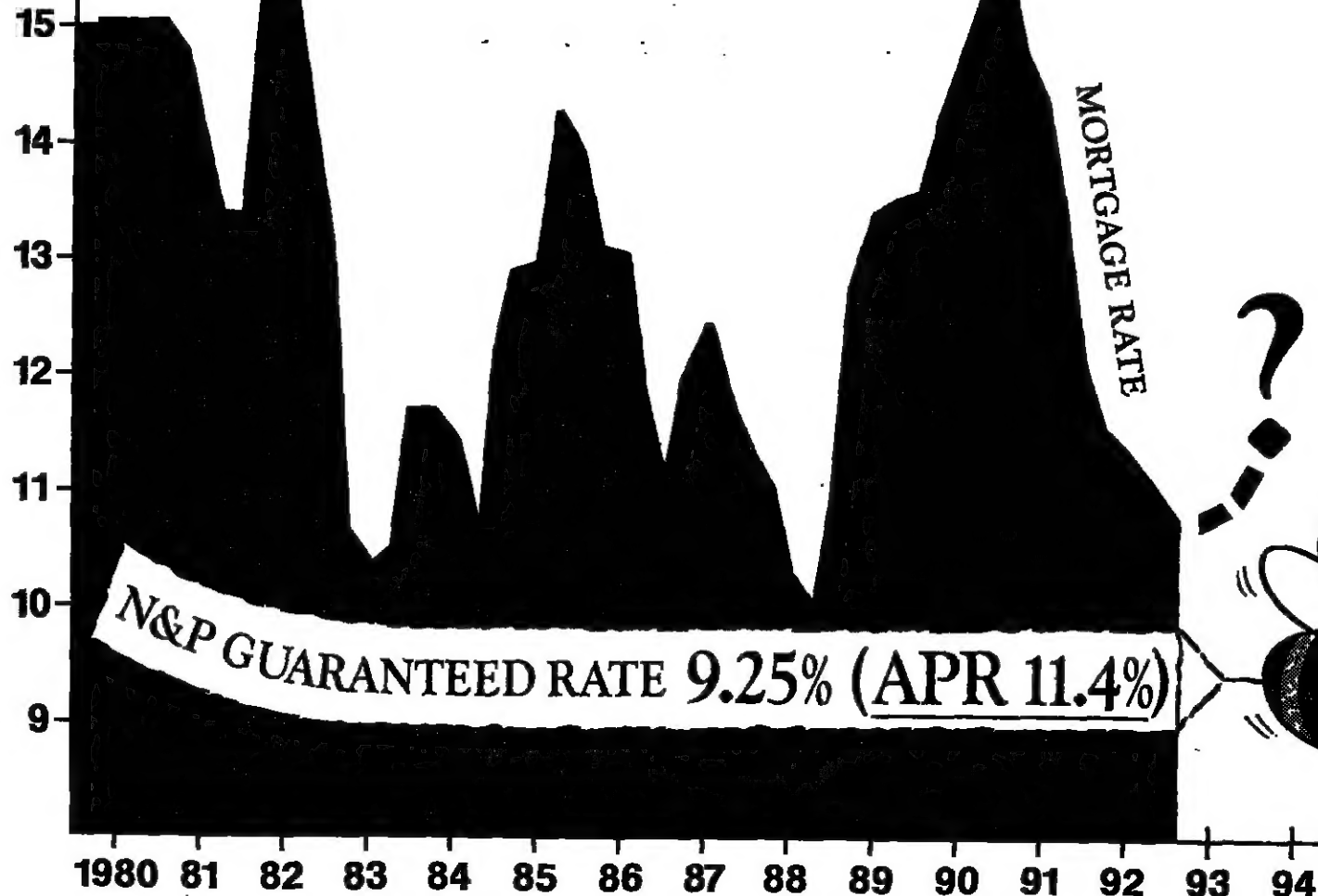
Breasts and buttocks are now conspicuous on the covers of the Turkish editions of *Penthouse* and *Playboy*. Some of the conservative reaction appears to be less to do with the nudity itself than that it originates in a "corrupt" Europe. Yet the foreign origins of Turkish soft porn also makes it more acceptable to late-night male viewers who believe their wives and daughters would not behave like that.

This may be changing. Until recently, super-soft Turkish porn films spread the message that bad girls end badly. Now, the new breed of men's magazines print what they say are the erotic adventures of female readers, who also send in nude studies of themselves.

This is all a far cry from the days when topless Bavarian schoolteachers singing the praises of their Turkish coastal resort holiday were published on the equivalent of page three with their breasts pencilled over. The prize for self censorship for a long time belonged to one newspaper, which partly obscured a photograph of a bare-chested Turgut Ozal, now the Turkish president, who has always had a weight problem.

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NO PEACE FOR SERBIA

The principle that aggression must not stand, nor borders be altered by force, has at last been firmly asserted by the United Nations Security Council in the case of Bosnia. The UN's recently acquired credibility in upholding and enforcing international law would now appear to be on the line.

The security council has unequivocally confirmed "the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina" and each country's right "to live in peace and security within its borders". Acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which implies that the world is prepared to enforce its will, the UN has formally declared the conflict there to be "a threat to international peace and security" and demanded an immediate end to "all military activity".

Yet every political signal points in the opposite direction: towards acceptance of the partition of Bosnia-Herzegovina and recognition that Greater Serbia is, however repugnant that may be, an accomplished fact. The UN secretary-general has made public his fear that this conflict could become "the UN's Vietnam", from which it should therefore distance itself. Western governments appear anxious to keep the UN in place mainly in order to deflect public pressure on them to "do something".

The Bosnian government, whose ambassador was inexcusably denied a security council hearing this week, is understandably suspicious that the subject of these outwardly stern UN resolutions is the dismemberment of the state under the UN's auspices. In reluctant response to popular anguish, President Bush has pledged to "do whatever we have to do to stop the killing". But stopping the fighting could mean no more than a ceasefire which would leave Bosnia's Serbs with the 70 per cent of the republic they have seized with Belgrade's help and the Croats with the sizeable slice of Herzegovina they have grabbed on the side.

There is certainly still no case for a massive land intervention to separate the warring parties. The costs would be heavy, and the

political outcome uncertain. But the choice is not necessarily between all-out intervention and accepting Greater Serbia (and Greater Croatia) as accomplished facts.

The West has barely begun to test the resolve of Serbia, a state with no significant allies which has given no serious sign of being prepared for indefinite confrontation with the West. The West must now build on the UN's affirmation of Bosnia's territorial integrity. Serbs and Croats must be told that they can have their proper states, but not at the expense of others, and that there will never be such a thing as this gross Greater Serbia at peace with the world.

UN sanctions have been formally imposed on Serbia. Even though they have barely begun to be properly enforced, these have brought industry almost to a standstill and thrown thousands out of work. The strains are showing in the ruling party, now deeply divided. In the growing strength of the opposition, and in popular discontent over shortages of petrol and basic goods.

The tourniquet must be tightened, and neighbouring countries asked to accept border inspections. The Croatian government should be put on notice that it will face similar sanctions unless it abandons all thought of annexing or controlling Herzegovina. In Bosnia, the Serbs should be made to realise that any interference with humanitarian operations may be met with exemplary air strikes on arms stockpiles, tank concentrations and artillery emplacements.

Once it is clearly understood in Belgrade and Zagreb that their objectives in Bosnia are achievable only at unacceptable, permanent cost, negotiations should become possible. Bosnia is not a lost cause as a state; refugees returned to their homes in Croatia in 1945, after a far crueler civil war than this. To countermand Greater Serbia will lead not only to thousands more permanent refugees but to a massive defeat for international law. The West has means short of war to bring about peace in the Balkans. What it has not shown so far is the will, the skill and the perseverance.

BRITISH RIGHTS

Almost unnoticed, establishment opinion is moving towards the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. The Liberal Democrats have always been in favour, together with a sprinkling of distinguished lawyers such as Lord Scarman. Now the new leader of the Labour party, John Smith, wants to make it his party's policy. The new Conservative chairman of the home affairs select committee, Sir Ivan Lawrence, has recently come out in favour of it. And this week the new Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Bingham, argued vehemently for incorporation. They are right: nothing would do more to protect the rights of the citizen, an aim which John Major claims to be at the heart of his citizen's charter philosophy.

The issue is not whether Britain should be bound by the convention. The country was the first to ratify the treaty in 1951 — it has nothing to do with, and long predates, the European Community — and ever since 1965, Britons have been able to appeal to the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg if they think their rights have been violated.

Every other country that has ratified the convention allows its own judges to rule on the rights of its citizens. Britain alone forces its subjects to go all the way to Strasbourg. This is Sir Ivan's main reason for backing incorporation; he says he is fed up with Britain washing its dirty linen abroad. Lord Justice Bingham, too, says he wants British judges to protect the rights of British citizens.

Because so many British cases end up in Strasbourg, Britain is seen unfairly as the illiberal man of Europe. Not only does the country's reputation suffer, so do the victims. Recourse to Strasbourg is extremely expensive, cumbersome and long-winded. Cases have to be taken as far as they can in the British legal system, sometimes all the way up to the House of Lords, before they can go

to Strasbourg. Then the European process can take as long as eight years. No wonder even the British member of the Commission, Sir Basil Hall, who used to be against incorporation, has now changed his mind.

Parliament would need to pass an act saying that every domestic law should be interpreted by the courts according to the principles laid down in the European convention and in past interpretations of the convention by the European Court of Human Rights. Judges would thus be able to measure laws and their effects against the template of Britain's new bill of rights to make sure that they fit. This would be no more political an exercise than judges already undertake in any case between the citizenry and the government — whether over the rights of girls to have as many grammar school places as boys or the right of the government to prevent publication of *Spycatcher*. The case law already exists in volumes, and British judges are no less likely to interpret it fairly than their colleagues overseas.

Parliament would lose no sovereignty as it could in theory reverse such a law, but it would cede some powers that in a free, democratic country it does not deserve to have. Only laws that deprived citizens of basic human rights would be challenged, as already happens in Strasbourg. Under Britain's unwritten constitution there is no means to entrench a bill of rights, to prevent it being repealed. But only a very rash Parliament would ever dare to do so.

The Queen described the convention earlier this year as the Council of Europe's "greatest single achievement" and talked of "the ever-growing success of the convention, which is now so much a part of our democratic heritage". More than three centuries after the last bill of rights, the time has come for Britain to adopt the European convention as its own. Without citizen's rights, a citizen's charter means little.

SAFE IN THE COOLER

Northern Ireland joined the civilised world some time in the 1980s. By the end of the decade its ownership of refrigerators per household was recorded as 98 per cent, up 13 per cent in ten years. The point is not that two out of every 100 Northern Ireland homes have no such machines — given the margin of error, that is a rash supposition — but that at this high figure, the Central Statistical Office stops counting. Statistically speaking, everybody in Northern Ireland now has a refrigerator, just like everybody else in the United Kingdom, statistically speaking, ten years before.

The refrigerator's claim to be the really cool test of membership of the first world should not be based so much on its routine duties, such as keeping an opened packet of streaky bacon edible a day longer, or extending the shelf-life of skimmed milk. A survey by the Gallup organisation has now come forward with proof that refrigerators are much more vital to their owners' secret foibles than that. Nothing else explains the comprehensive trust that people place, along with their socks, in their fridges.

The average refrigerator is a true cornucopia, being a combination of kitchen drawer, small boy's pocket, car glove compartment, filing cabinet and safe — and some would add sock drawer. Gallup's refrigerator found the contents of the nation's refrigerators found live maggots for fishbait, lipstick, make-up, dead budgies and snakes prior to tandoori, wedding bouquets, film, medicines, fur coats, expressed breast milk, snake bite serum, a bicycle wheel, empty milk bottles and quantities of out-of-date food and drink.

If the repository of such treasure is not a man's best friend — and a woman's, and a teenager's, and a toddler's — then what is?

There are some secrets people will not admit even to pollsters these days, like which party they are going to vote for and what else they keep in their fridges. So private research has to be relied upon to produce a more definitive list. Such as a ball of knitting, hidden from the local kithen. Such as an airline ticket: nobody ever lost one in a fridge. Such as cigarettes, when the lady of the house is a secret cool smoker. One poet keeps samples of his output on ice this way, as does at least one athlete. And a fridge with a hibernating frog in it has been reported from Hampstead.

Gallup's serious purpose, for which it was funded by British electricity companies, was to measure not so much all this ingenuity in refrigeration as its abuse through ignorance. Along with socks and frogs, people keep bacteria by the millions in fridges, by not observing the refrigerator or food manufacturers' instructions. Many people are not even aware of the link between food storage temperature and food poisoning.

Gallup wanted to know whether people used their fridges as a vital aid to food hygiene, or merely as extra cupboard space. Largely the latter, was the answer. There must be a word for people who have a refrigerator but do not know what it is for. But at least they share this confusion with its inventor, one William Cullen of Glasgow University, who first demonstrated evaporative cooling in his laboratory in 1748 but could not think of a use for it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Balkan refugees 'victims of bad law'

From Dr M. L. Piroquet

Sir, Your report, "Britain eases rules on refugees" (August 13), refers to the Dublin Convention and to removals of asylum-seekers under "international law".

The Dublin Convention is not international law: it is between just 12 states. It is not European Community law either. Although enacted between the 12 member states of the Community, it has been negotiated outside EC structures, and decisions made under it cannot, therefore, be scrutinised by the European Court. Nor can they be scrutinised by the European Court of Human Rights because that is an instrument not of the European Community but of the Council of Europe.

A law whose operations cannot be scrutinised by any court is, *ipso facto*, bad law.

Moreover only two of the states which drew up the Dublin Convention have ratified it, namely Denmark and Britain. The recent deportations from Britain of Balkan refugees, however, have been to Belgium, Germany and Italy, which have not ratified the convention; to Austria and the USA, which are not

involved at all; and to Turkey, which is not only not a party to the convention, but also has an appalling human rights record.

Governments often send asylum-seekers back to what they maintain is the first safe country they arrived in (though nothing in international law requires this), but the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is increasingly unhappy about declaring any country "safe"; too often asylum-seekers returned to "safe" countries have been endangered.

Britain is, therefore, applying the convention unilaterally and beyond its intended scope in the near certainty that for geographical reasons it can hardly ever be applied to Britain's own disadvantage. It may well be that Britain's actions will ensure that those European countries which have not yet ratified the Dublin Convention will now withdraw from it altogether as they see how it can be used to their disadvantage.

Yours faithfully,
M. LOUISE PIROUET
(Co-ordinator), Charter '87,
8 Geldart Street, Cambridge,
August 13.

Perils and profits of intervention

From Air Commodore Alastair Mackie

Sir, Having led us into one unnecessary war in the Falklands and committed us to another in the Gulf, Lady Thatcher runs true to form in suggesting (letter, August 14) that remaining one protagonist in the Balkan conflict and bombing one of the others might lead to peace.

Mercifully, the bizarre character of her strategy is no threat to the one glimmer of real hope: that UN protection of humanitarian aid convoys may lead to other forms of non-offensive military action such as safe havens.

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR MACKIE,
4 Warwick Drive, SW15,
August 14.

From Major General Philip Davies

Sir, Resistance to the Nazi occupation of Yugoslavia, the efforts of 20,000 British troops over five years to capture Colonel Grivas in the mountains of Cyprus and the humiliation of American power in Vietnam are surely sufficient examples to deter military intervention in the Balkans. There must be a better way.

The priorities for concerted international effort are clear: to provide safe refuge for those civilians already displaced or under imminent threat; to provide essential food, clothing and medicines to those in dire need; to ensure that all refugee or internment camps are subject to international inspection and supervision; to ensure that sanctions already in place against Serbia are 100 per cent effective; to secure long-term political solutions for lasting democracy and security within the area.

The planning and execution of the above tasks are the direct responsibility of the United Nations supported by, and in concert with, the International Committee of the Red

Cross and by an ecumenical effort of religious leaders.

The political debate on democracy and harmony in the Balkans for the longer term will hopefully be tackled with renewed energy at the London conference on August 26.

Yours faithfully,
P. M. DAVIES,
Hatch House, Upton Lovell,
Warminster, Wiltshire,
August 8.

From Mr Ian Smith

Sir, An argument often advanced against intervention on the ground that what was Yugoslavia is that during the second world war Tito's partisans planned down some 36 first-line German divisions, and therefore at least the same number of divisions would be needed to bring about a peaceful solution.

This argument is invalid because after suffering under two hundred casualties in the conquest of Yugoslavia, the area was largely staffed with understrength divisions being rested from the Russian front, and the total in the whole of Yugoslavia has been put as low as three divisions.

Although the partisans suffered severe losses, great deprivations and acquired themselves most gallantly, at the best they were little more than a hindrance to the German war effort.

While there was great respect for the abilities of the German army it was the Croatian Fascist Ustasha who were most hated and feared.

Yours faithfully,
IAN SMITH
(British Liaison Officer
5th Partisan Corps, Bosnia, 1944),
Ballyear, Ramelton,
County Donegal,
Republic of Ireland,
August 11.

she heard another quick action.

The parties did settle and I believe were each more satisfied than if the case had been allowed to plod lengthily and bitterly to the end, which in difficult hands it could so easily have done.

The judge had saved the court time, helping to speed litigation and spare the public purse. She had saved the litigants time, money and frustration.

If one multiplies this by the number of cases and persons involved as shown by Judge Lawrence's article, one appreciates the great benefits to the community, financial as well as moral, of an able judiciary at all levels.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ROFE,
Dudley Cottage,
East Chinnock, Yeovil, Somerset,
August 6.

Council error

From the Chief Executive of Camden Council

Sir, Your coverage of the report of Mr Andrew Arden, QC, into Camden's deferred purchase agreement which fell to be repaid a year earlier than expected ("£24m council error blamed on lawyer", August 11) sets out briefly the criticisms of named officers. In fairness, it should be noted that in Mr Arden's view the failure of each officer was "either for a small matter, or in a very short period", and he urged that the report be used as constructive criticism

rather than "a vessel from which to ladle blame".

The report highlights failings of the council's administrative machinery, and its recommendations for remedying these have all been accepted by the council. We are committed to putting Camden back on a strong financial and administrative footing and the report is a valuable contribution.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY SMITH (Chief Executive),
London Borough of Camden,
Town Hall, Euston Road, NW1,
August 12.

Reducing additions

From Professor Griffith Edwards and Dr John Strang

Sir, We wish to welcome the government's recent white paper, "Health of the Nation", in terms of its providing for the first time a goal directed official policy on tobacco, alcohol, and injecting drugs. Bold targets have been set (1994 for some interim targets; 2000 for achieving the full target). These include benefits to the nation which are potentially startling: a reduction of at least a third in the prevalence of cigarette smoking and of drinking alcohol above recommended limits, and a 50 per cent reduction in rates of needle sharing by injecting drug users.

These targets will not though be reached by strategy declarations alone. Training across this whole area is at present underdeveloped and increased training investment will be necessary if the broad mass of health-care workers are to move from the management of addictive illness to the promotion of health. Greatly increased support will also be required for research and development directed at the additions.

The Department of Health has historically assigned only 0.8 per cent of budget to health service

Fair taxation and the company car

From the Chairman and Managing Director of Vauxhall Motors Ltd.

Sir, Vauxhall and others in the motor industry have been lobbying the Treasury in recent months to tax the company car driver on the list price of the car not, as currently, on engine size (leading article, "The car perk racker", August 8).

This view seems to have at last been accepted, though the Treasury's proposal still retains the idea of price banding — no fewer than 12 levels. The use of price bands would, in our view, create artificial distortions in pricing, not dissimilar from the current situation. Why this additional complication should be necessary is a puzzle to us.

Your leader advocates the introduction of a carbon tax on the fuel consumed by all motorists, a view with which we also agree provided all the political and administrative hurdles can be overcome.

Fuel tax is easy for the government to collect. The driver's concern for economy will act as an additional spur to purchase more fuel-efficient cars, and place a greater emphasis on economy rather than performance.

We have never endorsed the idea of the "perk" company car. This is a tiny minority of the total business car fleet: less than one in ten. I have no doubt that companies will seek to buy out these perks and the "racker" will die an unmoored death.

The operators of fleet cars attain higher discounts on their purchases of cars, as do bulk purchasers of any product. It is incorrect however to say that company cars are subsidised by the private motorists.

Our own research with 400,000 private car-purchasing transactions submitted to the recent Monopolies and Mergers Commission enquiry into our industry showed that Vauxhall car prices compared favourably with the prices of cars in other European countries.

The MMC also concluded: "A comparison of the price ranges in the UK with those in France and Germany, the two markets most similar to the UK... does not

indicate a significant difference in general price levels." It is difficult to see therefore that there is in fact any subsidy.

Finally, I do not believe the company car will disappear. Like a machine tool in industry, it is an essential investment in a company representative's job.

Yours faithfully,
W. A. EBBERT,
Chairman and Managing Director,
Vauxhall Motors Ltd.,
Griffin House, PO Box 3,
Luton, Bedfordshire,
August 10.

From Mr Neil Marshall

Sir, I have long believed that we should progressively move away from taxes on acquisition to taxes on vehicle usage. We are, of course, substantially there already — the tax rate of two thirds of the final price of each gallon of petrol does tend to focus the mind of the motorist on the £9 billion he contributes a year through petrol taxation alone.

In total, those who buy and operate cars are contributing around one pound in every nine received annually by the Exchequer: hardly a positive incentive to put a vehicle — whether business or private — on the road.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL MARSHALL
(Director, Economic Affairs),
Retail Motor Industry Federation,
201 Great Portland Street, W1,
August 11.

From Mr D. R. A. Field

Sir, Dearer car insurance premiums and inflated servicing costs currently suffered by the private motorist are a direct result of the syndrome "it doesn't matter, the company will pay". The sooner the "financial road surface" is levelled the better.

Yours faithfully,
D. R. A. FIELD,
7 Briar Hill, Woolpit,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk,
August 10.

Perils of Naples

From Professor Brian Shefton, FBA

Sir, More should be done by the authorities in Naples to protect visitors to the National Museum, famous for the finds from Pompeii and the other Vesuvian sites. Parts of Naples may be unpoliceable, but the area in the immediate vicinity of the museum must be made reasonably safe, instead of being a high-risk zone, as it is now.

One hears many sickening stories of assault upon persons in Naples, and I can bear personal witness to such an attack by a motorcyclist who tore past me and snatched my shoulder bag after I had finished work and left the museum.

In anticipation of such an event I had taken care that my bag contained little of value. I was however pulled down by the impetus and broke a bone in my right hand, which even now two months later still has to be in plaster. The culprit

stopped some two hundred yards further on, outside the museum, and flourished his loot. He evidently feared neither arrest by the police (who never seem to be there) nor intervention by members of the public.

This is an appalling demonstration of the total absence of adequate policing of this key area. Yet it can be only a matter of time before this sort of attack will end in a fatality or permanent maiming.

It should not be beyond the resources of the Neapolitan authorities to take more care of scholars and other visitors to what after all is one of the most important archaeological collections in the world and a prime attraction for the tourist industry of that city.

Yours faithfully,
B. B. SHEFTON,
University of Newcastle upon Tyne,
Department of Classics,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU,
August 10.

Costs in Italy

From Miss Patricia Moynagh

Sir, As a frequent visitor to Italy I do not think that anyone from this country (letter, August 10) should complain about high costs there.

I have been renting in high season a modernised three-room flat in a beautiful hill town near Rome for £10 a day inclusive. Outside tourist areas I have never had a bad meal in a restaurant and sometimes for as little as £5. In London I can conduct anyone to a number of places which serve rubbish for £20 or even £40.

A second-class train journey from Rome to Florence is £10; the equivalent distance in England would be about £40. It costs pennies to cross from one side of an Italian city to the other by public transport: taxis are cheaper and the drivers do not demand tips.

I believe British tourists in Italy pay far less than Italians in Britain. But do they get one of the most beautiful and fascinating countries and the friendliness, courtesy and *joie de vivre* of the Italians?

If a cup of coffee costs more there, it deserves to.

Yours faithfully,
P. MOYNAGH,
38 Great Russell Street, WC1,
August 11.

Sunday racing

From Sir Patrick Duffy

Sir, Your correspondents Mr Blackmore and Mr Kelly (letters, August 6, 12) point to the complexity of the issue raised by Doncaster's recent Sunday racing fixture, contrary to the superficial treatment it has received in some quarters. They will assist the general debate on both Sunday racing and Sunday trading in general, when it is resumed in Parliament.

However, as a vice-chairman until recently of both the all-party racing and all-party retail groups at Westminster, I am aware of difficulties that may still confront Parliament. For there are MPs in all parties now sensitive to such factors as environmental/social considerations, neighbourhood consultation and to the need for discussion with local authorities, trade unions and the churches.

Such considerations were the basis of Mr Ray Powell's private member's Shops (Amendment) Bill in January, which was the all-party response to Sunday trading last Christmas, and which has implications for Sunday racing. It could not make progress because of dissolution, but it does suggest an emerging consensus.

How much better if the Jockey Club and certain retail organisations had awaited a similar consensus, instead of giving the impression of trying to bounce Parliament by going ahead with their activities on Sunday. For that approach raises serious issues about public attitudes not only to law-keeping but also to law-making.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK DUFFY (MP for
Sheffield, Attercliffe, 1970-92),
153 Bennethorpe,
Doncaster, South Yorkshire,
August 13.

Here we go

From Mr Bryan Archer

Sir, Perhaps Arsenal Football Club would like to consider one small improvement to its new mural depicting the North Bank stand (photograph and report, August 13) and complete with amplified cheering. My invention, known as Retro (random ejector of toilet rolls), would afford just that missing touch of realism.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN ARCHER,
6 George Lane, Loddon,
Nr Norwich, Norfolk,
August 13.

Weekend Money letters, page 20

OBITUARIES

LILO MILCHSACK

Lilo Milchack, Hon DCMG, Hon CBE, founder of the Anglo-German Königswinter conferences, died in Düsseldorf on August 7 aged 87. She was born in Frankfurt in 1905.

Lilo Milchack's contribution to the re-establishment of confidence and friendship between Germany and Britain after Hitler's war is an outstanding example of the influence of individual personalities on the course of history. Both countries were fortunate that such individuals came forward in those difficult post-war years. One on the British side with whom Lilo Milchack worked closely was the late Sir Robert Birley, then responsible for education in the British Zone. Between them they created the annual Anglo-German Königswinter conferences, which have done so much for mutual understanding and which eventually inspired similar bilateral meetings: Anglo-Polish, Anglo-French, Anglo-Italian and others.

Lilo Milchack was born Lilo Duden, her grandfather having founded the famous German dictionary which bears his name. Her father was an industrial physicist. She married a businessman with inland shipping interests, Hans Milchack, whose moral and financial support to her own efforts has not always received the credit it deserved. Lilo and Hans were in opposition to Hitler and the Nazi regime. In the early 1930s Hans was one of the only two German business representatives who, at a meeting at the Industrieklub in Düsseldorf, refused support to the Nazis. Both helped Jews and others to leave Germany.

When the Allied forces crossed the Rhine in 1945, the Milchacks' anti-Nazi record was such that the Americans appointed Hans as Bürgermeister of their home district near Düsseldorf; he operated from their home with Lilo's help. The



Lilo Milchack, left, with the British ambassador in Bonn, Sir Roger Jackling, and his wife in 1972

Americans soon handed over to the British in the Rhine-Ruhr area, and Lilo Milchack met Robert Birley. Her chief concern then was that her compatriots should recall the guiding principles of democratic society and base the new Germany upon them. This in her view could be helped through close personal contacts with Britain and through study of British parliamentary and social institutions. This was not easy at a time when

personal contacts between British and Germans had been discouraged. Her work began with the establishment in 1949 of the German-English Society, of which she was for three decades the director, later becoming its honorary president. It brought many distinguished British lecturers to the Federal Republic and provided the basis of the German end of the organisation of the Königswinter conferences.

The first of these took place in 1950, with a meeting of social workers, and the second in 1951 was devoted to press responsibility. The themes of subsequent conferences became more general and more political, dealing with Anglo-German relations, East-West relations, the Atlantic Alliance and European institutions, but they continued to deal with social and economic issues of concern to both countries. At a

relatively early stage Lilo Milchack's original concept of Germans learning about democratic practices from personal contacts with the British was overtaken by frank and open discussion of each other's and of world problems.

Königswinter conferences have been attended by politicians (many, if not most, of whom became members of British and German governments), by press correspondents, by academics, by business, banking and trade union representatives and in later years also by national and international officials. They created not only understanding but close bonds of friendship as well, and a high value was placed upon them by British and German governments of differing political persuasions.

The blending of open and informal discussion without communiqués, joint statements or agreed resolutions, with serious treatment of important themes by leading personalities from so many different backgrounds, made these conferences unique. This was the special achievement of Lilo Milchack, as all participants always recognised. With all her strength of purpose, she remained personally modest, preferring to work in the background. In doing so, she made a host of close friends in both countries.

Lilo Milchack's activities were lauded by successive German presidents and chancellors and British prime ministers. They earned her West Germany's Grand Federal Cross of Merit in 1959. By Britain, she was appointed honorary CBE in 1958 and honorary DCMG in 1968. Finally, in 1972, she was created an honorary DCMG and remained for many years the only foreign holder of this award. It marked her unique services to Anglo-German relations, to which no one since 1945 made a greater or more effective personal contribution.

Her husband died in 1984.

DR JANE MORGAN

Dr Jane Morgan, author and criminologist, died of cancer in Aberystwyth on August 7 aged 42. She was born in Harrogate on October 21, 1949.

JANE Morgan this year enhanced her reputation in sociological research through being joint author, with Lucia Zedner, of a study on child victims of crime, an area felt to deserve more academic attention. An authoritative examination of public policy towards child victims, it was based on a two-year survey of children, the police and support agencies. The study concluded that, although areas such as child abuse and the treatment of juvenile offenders are clearly recognised, the problem of children as incidental victims of a wider range of crimes requires urgent consideration. They are thrust into an adult system that takes little account of their needs.

Born in Harrogate, Yorkshire, she moved to Wrexham with her widowed mother and attended Acton Park School, Wrexham, and then Grove Park School for Girls. In 1968, she became a history student at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, where she went on to take an MA degree in Welsh history.

In 1973 she married Kenneth Morgan, then a fellow of modern history and politics at Queen's College, Oxford, where they lived very happily for more than 16 years with their two children. Jane Morgan managed a busy academic career while remaining a devoted mother. In 1979 she gained an external PhD degree from the University of Leicester on the political career of Christopher, Viscount Addison. This was published as a biography by Oxford University Press in 1988.

For three years, she worked on a Home Office research project at Worcester College, Oxford, on penal policy. In 1982 she was awarded a

Thank-offering to Britain fellowship by the British Academy. This resulted, in 1987, in a much-praised book on the police and labour disputes, 1900-1939, *Conflict and Order*.

She was now increasingly fascinated by criminology, and in March this year, with Dr Zedner, she published *Child Victims*.

When her husband became principal of UCW in April 1989, Jane Morgan took an active part in the life of the university and of Wales. As well as being a kind and serene hostess at the official residence, Plas Penglais, she taught in the law faculty at Aberystwyth and the social policy department at Bangor. A keen former student, Jane Morgan was vice-president of the Aberystwyth Old Students' Association.

She was for many years a magistrate at Woodstock and carried her professional interests into charitable work. Dr Morgan was also founder of Dyfed Victim Support in May 1992 and was active in community care, the YWCA and Relate. She became a member of the Welsh Arts Council last year. Personal interests included riding, tennis and foreign travel, especially to Italy.

She leaves her husband, Professor Kenneth Morgan, and a son and a daughter.



MAJ-GEN DENZIL KOBBEKADUWA

Major-General Denzil Kobbekaduwa, who was due to take over as the Sri Lankan army's chief of staff in January next year, was killed on August 8 aged 52, when a pressure mine exploded under a vehicle in which he was travelling. He was born on July 27, 1940.

DENZIL Kobbekaduwa was General Officer Commanding of the Northern Province of Sri Lanka at the time of his death, and was in charge of the operation to defeat one of the fiercest terrorist groups in the world, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which the Indians accused of killing of Rajiv Gandhi last year.

Kobbekaduwa was trained in Britain, at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, at the Royal College of Defence Studies and at the Staff College, Camberley. He joined the Sri Lankan army in 1960 and rose rapidly to become a troop commander in its armoured corps.

He was respected as a courageous man who led from the front and was a source of encouragement to all. A master strategist, he proved his skills as a commander when he was given a free hand to operate against the LTTE.

He was unique among his fellow commanders in demanding that the army should warn civilians a few hours prior to launching an operation or bombing rebel areas. Leaflets were dropped from the air identifying safe places for civilians to seek shelter. This was because of his belief that the secessionist war of the LTTE in the island's north could only be solved politically, by winning the hearts and minds of the population. He cared deeply for those who suffered innocently because of the war.

However, he was tough as far as the LTTE was concerned, and felt that the organisation must be weakened militarily to bring it to the negotiating table. The success-

es that the Sri Lankan army has had over recent months in the north are mainly attributed to his style of leadership. His credo was: "We are not fighting the Tamil people, but the LTTE. The Tamil people do not want war". Indeed, five former Tamil guerrilla groups who renounced violence in 1987 and joined the mainstream of politics had praised his leadership and his general outlook, which stood above racial, religious and political differences.

Kobbekaduwa was short and stocky, but on the playing field was known as one of Sri Lanka's best scrum halves. He continued playing rugby in the army and was a coach of the army rugby team.

His death was caused by a pressure mine buried on a road at Ariyal Point, in Kays, in the northern province. He had been inspecting the front lines before an attack to be launched the following day. A colleague had suggested that all the senior officers, instead of travelling in different vehicles, should get into one, as the LTTE might have been observing their movements. It was a fatal error, because the weight of the vehicle, it is believed, triggered the explosion, which also killed the colleague, Brigadier Vijaya Wimalaratne, and the commander of the Northern Naval Sector, Commodore Mahan Jayasinghe, as well as a number of other senior officers.

Kobbekaduwa was the most senior army officer to be killed in a war that has claimed the lives of over 2,500 service personnel in the past two years.

White flags strung from many houses in all parts of Sri Lanka on the day after his death attest to the esteem in which he was held by the population, and his funeral was attended by 100,000 people. Indeed, there was public anger that he was not given a state funeral. For many in Sri Lanka, he represented hope of salvation from the island's many problems.

DR D. W. ADAMSON

Dr D. W. Adamson, Director of Research for the Wellcome Foundation from 1953 to 1977, died on August 3 aged 80. He was born on July 12, 1912.

JOCK Adamson was an immensely effective man in the post-war development of pharmaceuticals. Within that world he had an international reputation and his judgment guided many scientists to results of great importance.

He was a brilliant young chemist, taking an early doctorate at Manchester and another at Oxford. He was ready for a career of research, but instead was swept into the war effort at Forton Down, where he worked at chemical defences against nerve and other gases. It was there that he discovered that he had great talents as an organiser, achieving the design, manufacture and delivery of equipment to the Russians before the contracted date, something that is rare even now in the military world.

In 1945 he joined the staff of the Wellcome Foundation Chemical Research Laboratories and in 1948 was appointed head of the chemical division. His small research team was soon successful, finding a compound that treated Parkinson's, another that relieved peptic ulcers, yet another that is a powerful anti-histamine and a fourth that is an analgesic for dogs.

His wide-ranging talents were recognised, and in 1953 he was appointed director of research, a position he held for 24 years until 1977. He was also



responsible for overseas development and travelled widely, becoming an international figure.

The research achieved under his guidance provided the basis for Wellcome's massive expansion in the past two decades. He was the driving force behind many achievements, such as the building of the first laboratory in the world to

produce oral polio vaccine. Developments of this kind were close to his heart; he cared deeply about the duty of scientists to help people throughout the world.

His work with the research teams at Wellcome in the USA was equally productive. Affection, pleasure in his company, his wry sense of humour and his generosity and courtesy are what colleagues on both sides of the Atlantic like to remember. These are not the feelings that are usually held about people in positions of power, but in spite of his authority and position he was never just an administrator. He took his decisions with vision, always looking towards research that could benefit humanity. He was far-seeing; it was 25 years ago that he wrote, in *The Times*, of the need to find ways to control the body's auto-immune responses.

He retired from Wellcome in July 1977. He could never reconcile himself to the changes in the foundation that have taken place since then. He was proud of the "non-profit" status of Wellcome during the years that he worked for the foundation and never accepted the argument that it should become a conventional company that profited from human illness for the benefit of shareholders.

Adamson's retirement was saddened by the death of his dearly loved wife, Pam. With great courage he re-made his life. He found many new interests, among them collection and restoration of Chinese table paintings.

Adamson is survived by his three daughters.

DURRANT ROBERTSON

Durrant Waile Robertson, American medievalist and Chaucer scholar, has died aged 77. He was born in Washington on October 11, 1914.

D. W. Robertson, professor at Princeton from 1946 until his retirement in 1980, was a noted American medievalist and Chaucerian. The books most often recommended to students are *A Preface to Chaucer* (1963), and his and Bernard F. Huppé's *Prayer and Chaucer's Studies in Chaucer's Allegories* (1963). With Huppé he had previously written *Piers Plowman and Scriptural Tradition* (1951).

Robertson gained his BA, MA and doctorate from the

University of North Carolina. He taught briefly at the University of Maryland before going on to Princeton, where all his most important work was done.

Robertson (together with Huppé when they collaborated) was a meticulous scholar and an extreme — a few thought too extreme — contextualist. He insisted that in order to be understood properly, or even at all, Chaucer's texts needed to be read by people thoroughly trained in philology. He also required readers to be aware of cultural patterns and the way in which they changed, often rapidly. Texts, he asserted, would otherwise remain as opaque as their language was archaic.

All too frequently, he would explain to his pupils, even the most famous works were being misinterpreted through ignorance. The easiest reading, the "obvious meaning" played no part in Robertson's austere scheme. The value of what he said was undeniable but was somewhat narrowly expressed; some of his colleagues, variously exasperated and admiring, dubbed his approach "Robertsonianism".

Robertson was most particularly associated with the post-war trend in Chaucerian scholarship that concerned itself with close textual analysis, without which it was felt that "the nature of the literary entity" (as one of his group of critics put it) could not be discovered. Thus his *Preface* of

1963 is taken up, like R. O. Payne's almost contemporaneous *The Key of Remembrance*, with Chaucer's knowledge of the rhetorical techniques of his time.

In the Langland study of 1951 he and Huppé, who in 1949 had written an important scholarly article on the vexed question of the dating of *The B-T* of Piers Plowman, argued for a reassessment of the author's thinking in the light of medieval interpretations of the scriptures. In 1963 they did something similar for Chaucer in their *Prayer and Chaucer*, in emphasising Chaucer's use of allegorical technique. Robertson's most accessible book is perhaps his most general, *The Literature of Medieval England* (1970).

August 15 ON THIS DAY 1961



Jomo Kenyatta, later to become president of Kenya and to be regarded as a stabilizing force in Africa, spent some years imprisoned or detained after being convicted for his part in the affairs of the Mau Mau secret society. He died in 1978.

KENYATTA BACK AFTER EIGHT YEARS CHANTING CROWDS AIM TO UNITE AFRICAN PEOPLE

From Our Correspondent NAIROBI, Aug 14.

Jomo Kenyatta returned to Kenya this morning for the first time in eight years, eight months, and 27 days — the time that has elapsed since he was arrested at the beginning of the Mau Mau emergency. He and his family were brought in impressive style to the house which the Kenya Government had built for him at a cost of about £3,000 at Gatundu, his home village in the Kiambu district.

Officially, Kenyatta will remain in restriction for "a few days", which may mean anything up to a month judging by recent Kenya experience. Though Mr. Ngalia, Leader of Government Business, has said that this is for his own safety, Kenyatta showed some resentment today that his release is not yet complete.

It was ironic that his return to Kenya soil after long years of exile should have been at Kahawa, near Thika, on the airstrip of the military base which has been so bitterly attacked by African politicians. This was judged to be the arrival point giving most security to Kenyatta and his family, and the judgment proved well founded. Few pass-

tant editor of the all-black *Golden City Post*, and later as assistant editor, and then editor of West African editions of *DRUM*, based in London.

In the 1960s, he joined Odam Press as a sub-editor with the *Daily Herald*, which was transformed into the *Sun*. After being chief sub-editor on *Industry Week*, he became press spokesman for the Clerical and Administrative Workers' Union, before becoming a sub-editor on *The Times Business News* in 1971.

Godfrey wrote hundreds of short stories, winning three international awards for detective fiction, and wrote for stage, television and radio. One of his longer tales became a film, *The Girl in Black Stockings*, starring Anne Bancroft.

Godfrey leaves a widow, Nina, and two sons.

When patriotism can be costly

BY KERRY GILL

THERE seems to be no limit to the amount of money some people will pay for a personalised car registration number. There are those who will happily hand over the price of several executive cars, or more than 300 second-hand Ladas, for the conceit of a number that derides lesser drivers with, for example, the message UPU 2.

Someone recently paid a record £160,000 for 1A, for which he or she could have bought a new Ferrari and had change for a lifetime of service bills. Now the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) is to hold an auction of registration numbers in Edinburgh.

The sale, at Heriot Watt University on September 1, will have a Scottish theme. It seems unlikely that there are many Church of Scotland ministers so well-heeled that they could afford KI RKS (Kirk), expected to fetch £2,500, but Scottish patriots are expected to bid a similar amount for KI LTS.

One number certain to attract wide interest is NES 1E, for Loch Ness monster hunters. For those of a literary bent there will be RAB 1E after the bard, the bidding for which is expected to reach more than £3,000.

Some numbers need a little thought. MCN 1C is considered appropriate for a Scot-

ish burglar, and there will be plenty of marks containing MC. For the parents who have everything, 4 PA and 4 MA are expected to fetch £8,500 the pair.

The first number 1A was issued in 1903 but sales of the DVLA's Classic Collection began only three years ago, and 13 auctions have raised £30 million for the Exchequer. Among the other high prices realised were £75,000 for G1 LLY, £65,000 for 1 DM, and £50,000 for DAV 1D. 1 PM, for which £60,000 was paid, has yet to be seen emerging from Downing Street. UPU 2 was last seen on a Rolls-Royce. How vulgar.

POTTERY oxen, baskets of grain and model iron swords have been found at one of China's most spectacular archaeological sites, the pottery army accompanying the burial of a Han emperor. Buried in long pits to the south of the royal tumulus, the discoveries reflect the ancient desire that the "spirit army" should be properly provisioned in its eternal task of protecting the emperor's body.

The oxen, 2ft long, are the largest animal figures known from the Han dynasty, according to Wang Xuefeng of the Shaanxi Institute of Archaeology. The two animals accompany figures of four dogs,

four sheep and two pigs, with pottery soup bowls and iron cooking pots in pit 21.

The 24 long, parallel pits, which span an area 300 metres wide and half a kilometre long, were found when a road was built to the new Xi'an airport, north of the Wei River in central China. Six of those on the western side and two on the east have been excavated.

Pit 17, like pit 21, has pottery soldiers some 2ft high guarding a granary. Wheat and miller grains, well preserved after two millennia, filled the pit to a considerable depth. The pit also contained 70 pottery soldiers marching behind two carriages, each

drawn by three wooden horses.

Pit 20 has yielded long, orderly ranks of soldiers, each made in a four-part mould and fired before being painted, fitted with wooden arms, and dressed in silk. Traces of textile have survived on some of the figures, as have lacquered garters.

The wooden arms rotated at the shoulder, and their hands held miniature weapons, including iron swords and wooden crossbows with bronze triggers and bolts.

Seven hundred warriors have been uncovered so far, but the unexcavated pits 3-15 are expected to hold thousands more.

Oxen shared spirit journey

BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

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Hereditary asthma is passed on by mother, say doctors

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

WHEEZERS and sneezers should blame their mothers, according to scientists investigating the development of allergy. A gene that causes asthma and hayfever is active only when passed on through the mother's side of the family, they have found.

The discovery is likely to speed identification of the gene which could lead to the development of new treatments in the next decade.

Asthma and other allergies have been observed for many years to run in families, but recent studies have shown that children of asthmatic mothers are more likely to

inherit the disease than those whose fathers suffer. Now a team of researchers at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, have found that the allergy gene they located three years ago is active only when inherited from the mother.

The researchers know that the gene is in a small area of chromosome 11, which carries 6,000 genes in all. But the search has been frustrated by the seemingly arbitrary link between the gene and asthma, which is apparent in some families but not in others. "Recognising that it is inherited via the mother will make it easier to map the

gene," Dr Bill Cookson, the team leader, said.

To explain the gene's predisposition for the maternal line, the researchers suggest that when inherited from the father it may be "switched off", so that it becomes inactive for the life of that person, although it can still be passed to future generations. The reason may be linked with the development of the placenta. Genes that control the growth of the placenta come mainly from the father and the presence of an active allergy gene could lead to miscarriage.

Alternatively, the researchers, whose work is detailed in *The Lancet* today, suggest that the presence of the gene in the mother may affect the antibodies she produces, or interact with what she eats, influencing the development of the child's immunity. The effect may also be transmitted through breast milk.

The Oxford team, funded by the Wellcome Foundation, were criticised earlier this week by Dr Richard Smith, editor of the *British Medical Journal*, for making exaggerated claims for their work. Yesterday, a cautious Dr Cookson said they were on the brink of identifying the gene but it depended on "a lot of luck". "We have a lot of very interesting molecules we are looking at now and one could be the gene itself. If we are lucky we could come up with it this year but if we are unlucky it could take five."

He said that if the gene turned out to control a receptor, or switch, which could be turned off, it might be possible to develop treatments in five to ten years. But if it was a different kind, treatments could take "much longer".

Talks on Yugoslav peace collapse

Continued from page 1

republics chaired by Lord Carrington, which Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, refused to attend. Lord Carrington emerged afterwards grim-faced, admitting little could be done while he chose to stay away.

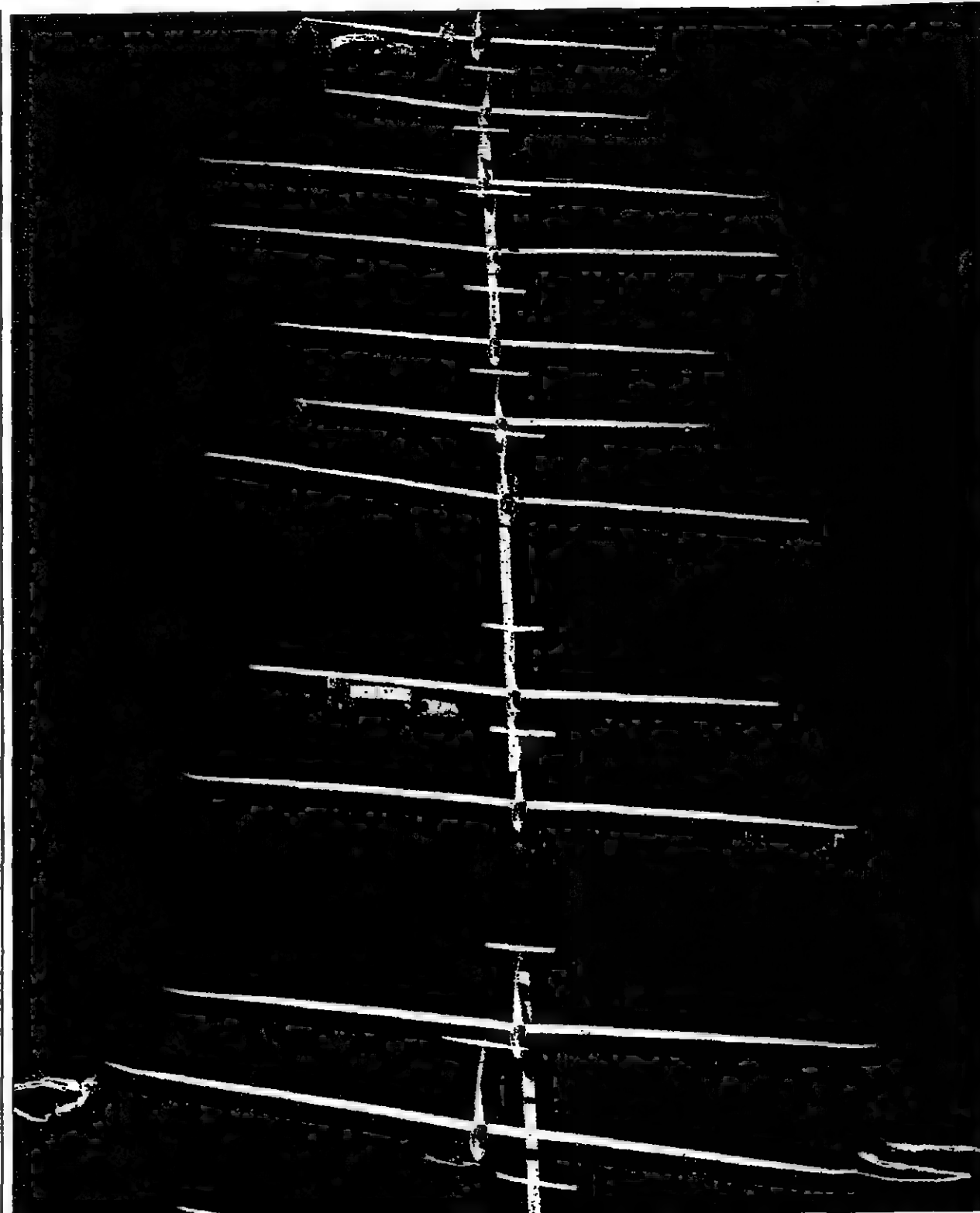
Mr Izetbegovic also dashed hopes for the London summit by protesting at the inclusion of the rump state of Yugoslavia. This would amount to diplomatic recognition through the back door, he said. Serbia has strongly denounced the UN vote as unnecessary and likely to lead to greater hostilities.

The only glimmer of hope came with the exchange yesterday of prisoners between Croatia and the rump Yugoslavia at Nemeth, 160 miles east of Zagreb. The UN yes-

terday denounced as "absolutely medieval" the treatment of the 28,000 Muslim refugees who have been driven from their homes in north-western Bosnia. Peter Kessler, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said that conditions were reminiscent of the Nazi era. But he urged Muslim families to resist "ethnic cleansing".

In Geneva, the UN Human Rights Commission yesterday appointed Tadeusz Mazowiecki, a former Polish prime minister, as a special rapporteur to investigate human rights violations and report by August 28.

Psychosis of fear, page 6
Siren voice, page 10
Leading article and letters, page 11



Ready to go: gliders lining up on a runway at RAF Abingdon, Oxfordshire, yesterday for the start of two days of aeronautical manoeuvres at the British Open National Championships. The inter-services glider championship, which was held earlier, was won by Flight Lieutenant Andy Miller and Chris Terry

Festival 'clean-up' of drunks alleged

By KERRY GILL

EDINBURGH'S prosecution service was accused yesterday of attempting to erect a cordon sanitaire around the city centre by banning people accused of drink-related offences during the international festival in which tens of thousands of tourists visit the Scottish capital.

The claim was made after men accused of breach of the peace were granted bail on condition that they kept away from the city's main tourist areas including Princes Street and the Royal Mile.

At least three men accused of either harassing passers-by or demanding money denied the charges in the district court. They were given bail pending trial in November, but a rider in accordance with the Bail (Scotland) Act of 1980 was added saying that they "do not enter High Street (part of the Royal Mile), the Mound, Princes Street in its entirety, North Bridge nor the area bounded thereby".

Alistair Duff, a lawyer whose firm acted for one of the accused, said the conditions abused court procedures, and looked like an attempt to "cleanse" the city.

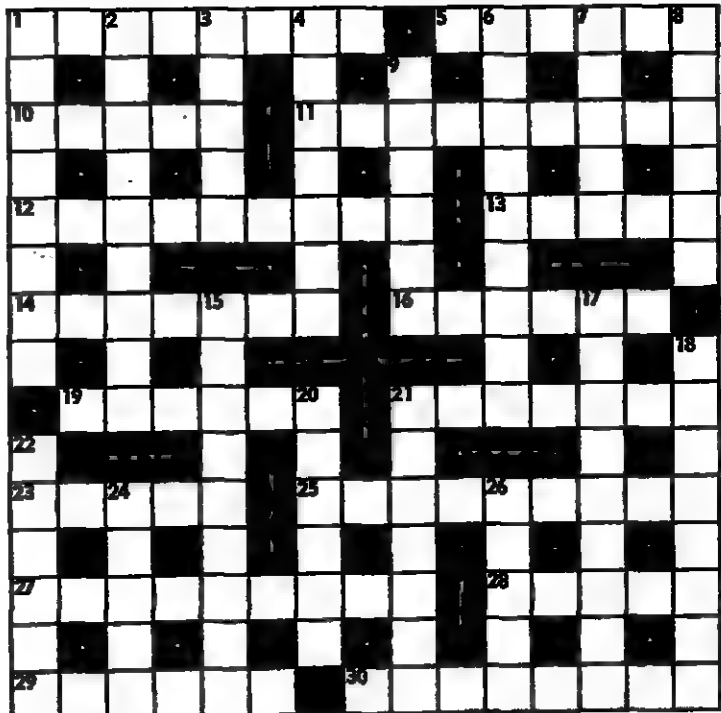
"The only effect these conditions will have will be to make sure the men don't go near tourists. I cannot see how the conditions can benefit the ordinary people of Edinburgh," said Mr Duff, who is considering an appeal.

Kenneth Maciver, the city's assistant procurator fiscal, said the decision was taken by his office to protect visitors and locals from harassment.

Edinburgh preview, page 5
Saturday Review, page 26

Surprise inflation boost

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,998



- ACROSS**
- Swimming whales go to surface (4,1,3)
 - Small boat put into the water (6)
 - Application, if typed, to some extent showing style (5)
 - Invest foreign currency in prestigious sporting achievement (5,4)
 - Sporadic pot-shots around rock cease abruptly (4,5)
 - Cat with quite a lot of scruples (5)
 - Pests for a starter in Naples - lots of it (7)
 - What makes a wave a wave? (6)
 - In gym, tomboy performed quickly (6)
 - Conspirator who was envious of Norman falls (7)
 - State currency up in value (5)
 - Musical sound from bird nesting right inside the hill (4,1,4)
 - A tricky situation - casserole starts to adhere to oven (3,6)
 - Face can be a verb (5)
 - Kipper's head? (6)
 - When holding strong chaps, surgeon has to be forcible (6)
- DOWN**
- Warbles on one note - very monotonous (6)
 - Not in the pink or blue (3-6)
 - Fool swallowed up by crevasse (5)
- Answers to last Saturday's crossword are: Mrs Brockhurst, Radley Chase, Broadstairs, Kent; M J Cochrane, Mounview Home Park, Portmarnock, Downend Road, Downend, Bristol; J Pope, South House, Riverside, Sturminster Newton, Dorset; T R Burch, Ballard's Green, Burgh Heath, Surrey.**

Solution to Puzzle No 18,992

DRAGON CASE STUDY
EVEN HONOUR
WHOLESALE THIRD
ENRICHED
LISZT SPEEDWELL
L O E N R
INFANTIA THIRSTY
N R E
GRASSIES HUSTLER
O H U C K
CARNATION ROOKS
U A L M D I I H
TANG COLE BALDI
L C O L E E E R H
SHEPHERD RIDGE

Solution to Puzzle No 18,997

RYJAMAR ATHLETE
Q E U U D A R V
LATIN BRAINWAVE
E S C N D G T R
CUTTHROAT RHODE
A R R R S
THEIR MAKESHIFT
A E N G M
ARMADILLO NOBLE
P I I T A M
ROBIN NIGHTCLUB
O R G E R E A R
PHENOMENA MANNA
O A T O S P C C
SUMMERY SIOVENE

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?
By Philip Howard

- ORECTIC**
a. A twinking speck in the car
b. Jealous
c. Pertaining to desire
- FOSSICK**
a. An old logy
b. To undermine someone's digging
c. To muller
- POSTIL**
a. A carriage postboy
b. A marginal note
c. A pot still
- GREMLIN**
a. A close friend
b. Having large breasts
c. The clerk of a Freemason's lodge

Answers on page 12

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0538 401 followed by the appropriate code.

- London SE**
London (within M & S Circs.) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford 733
M-ways/roads Dartford-T423 734
M-ways/roads M25-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736
- National**
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
East Anglia 740
East of England 741
North-east England 742
North-west England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by the appropriate code.

- Greater London** 701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex 702
Dorset, Hants & IOW 703
Devon & Cornwall 704
Wilt, Gloucestershire, Avon, Somerset 705
Bedfordshire, Bucks, Oxon & Bucks 706
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs 707
West Mid & Shropshire & Cheshire 708
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester 709
Central Midlands 710
East Midlands 711
Lincoln & Humberside 712
Dyfed & Powys 713
Gwynedd & Ceredigion 714
N Wales 715
W & S Wales & Dales 716
N E England 717
Cumbria & Lake District 718
S W Scotland 719
W Central Scotland 720
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders 721
S Central Scotland 722
Glasgow & E Highlands 723
N W Scotland 724
Cairn Ross, Orkney & Shetland 725
N Ireland 726

Weatherfax is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

LIGHTNING-UP TIMES

- TODAY**
London 6.23 pm to 7.48 am
Bristol 6.48 pm to 7.48 am
Manchester 6.48 pm to 7.48 am
Penzance 6.48 pm to 7.48 am
- TOMORROW**
London 6.23 pm to 7.48 am
Bristol 6.48 pm to 7.48 am
Manchester 6.48 pm to 7.48 am
Penzance 6.48 pm to 7.48 am

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cloudy with rain, heavy at times; then later in the day, the rain will become more showery. Northern England and Wales will be bright at first, then outbreaks of rain will spread east this afternoon. Elsewhere, mainly dry with bright spells, though patchy rain in the south-west later. Outlook: patchy rain in north Wales and northern England.

MODAY: 1-4: shower; 5-6: drizzle; 7-8: drizzle; 9-10: rain; 11-12: rain; 13-14: rain; 15-16: rain; 17-18: rain; 19-20: rain; 21-22: rain; 23-24: rain; 25-26: rain; 27-28: rain; 29-30: rain; 31: rain	Star	Rain	Wind
Abandon	2.2	0.5	10
Anglesey	2.2	0.5	10
Armagh	2.2	0.5	10
Belfast	2.2	0.5	10
Birmingham	2.2	0.5	10
Bournemouth	2.2	0.5	10
Bristol	2.2	0.5	10
Cardiff	2.2	0.5	10
Cardigan Bay	2.2	0.5	10
Carmarthen	2.2	0.5	10
Caswell	2.2	0.5	10
Cavan	2.2	0.5	10
Cork	2.2	0.5	10
Craigavon	2.2	0.5	10
Crawley	2.2	0.5	10
Darlington	2.2	0.5	10
Derby	2.2	0.5	10
Doncaster	2.2	0.5	10
Donetsk	2.2	0.5	10
Dorchester	2.2	0.5	10
Dundee	2.2	0.5	10
Durham	2.2	0.5	10
Edinburgh	2.2	0.5	10
Exeter	2.2	0.5	10
Falmouth	2.2	0.5	10
Glasgow	2.2	0.5	10
Glasgow City	2.2	0.5	10
Glasgow Harbour	2.2	0.5	10
Glasgow Marina	2.2	0.5	10
Glasgow Port	2.2	0.5	10
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Glasgow Jetty	2.2	0.5	10
Glasgow Wharf	2.2	0.5	10</

● BUSINESS 15-18,22,23
● WEEKEND MONEY 19-21

BUSINESS TIMES

SATURDAY AUGUST 15 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

SPORT
24-30

Profile

Murray Stuart's new position as head of Scottish Power could turn out to be the Holy Grail he has been searching for in his bid for perfection. Hard years of training as a lawyer and then an accountant have led to an "odyssey" of different jobs in industry but he has now achieved his goal of heading a big public company. **Page 17**



Bank birthday

Barclays celebrates ten years of Saturday opening this week, surviving resistance from staff and other banks. Customers are now demanding longer Saturday banking hours. **Page 20**

Top-up trap

Employees who choose to make additional voluntary contributions to top up their pension schemes could find that most or even all of their return is eaten up in charges and expenses. **Page 20**



Student struggle

Shelley Harknett is just one of thousands of students forced to give up their studies because they cannot afford to continue, even with the help of wages from part-time jobs. The steep increase in student debt is continuing, threatening the futures of prospective students who receive their A level results this week. Organisations are calling for more help for students, while those already on courses suggest that soon higher education may only be available to the rich. **Page 19**

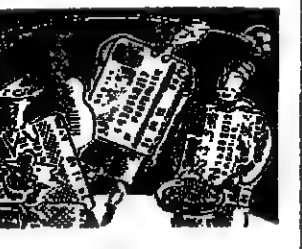


Not benefiting

Insurers have been accused of discriminating against landlords whose tenants are receiving state benefits. They deny this but at least one company appears confused about its position. **Page 21**

Pyramid action

The trade and industry department says it is taking action over several "pyramid selling schemes", which offer the chance to get rich quick but which are not always what they appear. **Page 21**



Going for gold

The British Medical Association now has its own gold credit card, joining an ever widening, exalted band of specialists with their own cards, including the fish fryers' federation. **Page 21**

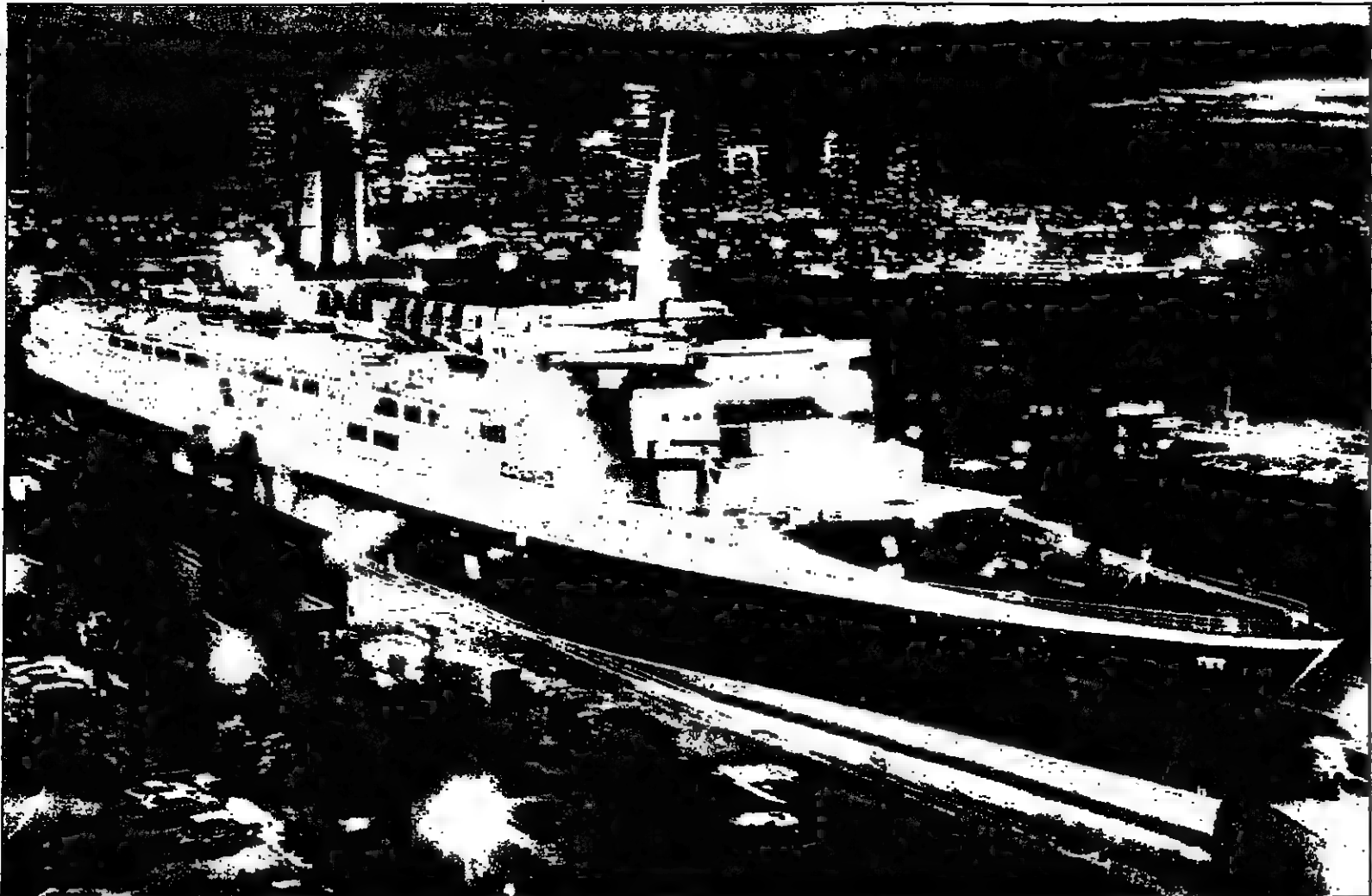
Surprise fall in inflation gives boost to shares

By ANATOLE KALETSKY AND PHILIP PANGALOS

SHARE prices soared in London yesterday in response to better-than-expected British inflation data, a sharp drop in German retail sales and wholesale prices, and hopes that the mark might have reached a peak on world foreign exchange markets. Signs of a newfound stability in the Tokyo stock market and a hint from the deputy president of the Bundesbank that a further rise in German interest rates was not on the cards, cheered investors further and pushed share prices on most continental bourses substantially higher for the first time this week. The most important news of the day came mid-morning when the Central Statistical Office said the retail price index had fallen by 0.4 per cent in July, pushing the headline rate of inflation down to 3.7 per cent. The monthly fall in the RPI was the largest for 25 years. The RPI figure was much lower than economists expected, partly because of a sharp drop in seasonal food prices. The good news on inflation initially put some downward pressure on sterling, but the pound recovered in the ERM as investors in America had Japan began to unload some of their mark positions in favour of the yen and dollar. By the end of the day, the pound was down less than half a penny at DM2.8130, with the Bank of England and Treasury showing no signs of anxiety about its lowly position.

in the ERM grid. The mark fell back after news that German wholesale prices had plunged by 1.3 per cent in July and were down 0.9 per cent on a year earlier, the first annual decline in two years. In another indication of weakening trends in the German economy, the Federal Statistics Office announced that retail sales in the western part of the country in June were 6 per cent lower in real terms than last year. In the first six months of 1992, retail sales fell 3 per cent in real terms compared with last year. Hans Tietmeyer, deputy president of the Bundesbank, said the diminished inflationary pressure was "pleasing", but gave warning that it was due in part to the effect on import prices of the strong mark. He added that the Bundesbank would review German interest rate levels in a few months. Dealers concluded that the much-dreaded increase in the lombard rate, now 9.75 per cent, which acts as a benchmark for interest rates throughout the European exchange-rate mechanism, was not on the horizon. The London stock market, meanwhile, had its best day since July 29 as dealers were joined out of their traditional pessimistic lethargy. The FT-SE 100 index registered 38.8 points of recent highs to close at 2,356.8. Dealers who had gone short, sold stock they did not have in the hope of buying it cheaper later, and rushed to close losses.

making positions in cash and futures markets. Traders were encouraged further as the FT-SE 100 index passed what is seen as an important chart level of 2,350. Falls below this level earlier in the week had upset sentiment. Buyers appeared in the afternoon for most blue chip shares, pushing volume of equities traded up to almost 450 million, high by recent standards on the London market. Beleaguered stores, building and consumer sectors received a much-needed boost from hopes that the fall in German retail and car sales may prompt the Bundesbank to loosen its tight monetary stance, ultimately allowing a cut in British rates. Double-figure gains were frequent in these sectors, but there were also sharp rises among international shares. Redland rose 8p to 409p and RMC 11p to 460p. Argos, which reports results on Monday, rose 7p to 204p and Kingsfisher gained 16p to 439p. Among builders, George Wimpey gained 8p to 113p and Rainie put on 9p to 89p. The encouraging trend continued on Wall Street. In afternoon trading, the Dow-Jones industrial average stood 8.37 points higher at 3,321.64, ending eight days of consecutive losses. **Inflation falls, page 1**
Stock market, page 18



Damage check: the QE2 undergoing night repair work in dry dock in Boston, after running aground off Cape Cod. Next month's cruises have been cancelled.

Preferred route of local pilot not taken

FROM AP IN BOSTON
THE local pilot who helped navigate the Queen Elizabeth 2 luxury liner said yesterday that the ship was not taking the route he had preferred to use when it ran aground last week off Martha's Vineyard, on the American east coast. Capt John Hadley said, however, that he had no difficulty with the ship captain's decision to use a slightly different route. In testimony yesterday at a coast guard hearing, Capt Hadley described how the ship's course was changed before the accident. He directed it to travel further north than the original plotting, but Capt Robin Woodall ordered the QE2 back to its original course because he was worried about some shoals. Capt Hadley said he supported the captain's decision. "If it made them more comfortable, that was fine by me," he said. He did not immediately testify about why he preferred a different route, but Paul Eschensen, a National Transportation Safety Board investigator at the hearing, said Capt Hadley had told him he liked the other route because he had customarily used it in the past. The work means that eight Atlantic crossings and two cruises up to September 29 will have to be cancelled. Estimates by Cunard's insurance broker, Willis Corroon, suggest the bill for loss of business and repairing the damage to the 66,000-tonne vessel could amount to well over £15 million, the initial estimate after the grounding. The £15 million comprises only the £8 million cost of cancelling cruises to the end of this month and a similar amount for the repair work. The cancellation of September cruises will at least double the initial estimate, and repair costs are likely to be much greater. The QE2 went aground off Cape Cod, Massachusetts, last week and was towed into dry dock at Boston harbour on Wednesday, two days behind

QE2 damage 'worse than estimated'

By JONATHAN PRYNN, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LONDON insurers are bracing themselves for heavy insurance claims from Cunard after the cruise line confirmed that the damage to the hull of the Queen Elizabeth 2 is much worse than estimated. The ship will be out of action until at least the end of September. A statement released by Cunard in New York last night after the completion of an engineers' inspection of the hull said that the damage extended into the keel of the vessel and that birds were being invited for the repair work. The work means that eight Atlantic crossings and two cruises up to September 29 will have to be cancelled. Estimates by Cunard's insurance broker, Willis Corroon, suggest the bill for loss of business and repairing the damage to the 66,000-tonne vessel could amount to well over £15 million, the initial estimate after the grounding. The £15 million comprises only the £8 million cost of cancelling cruises to the end of this month and a similar amount for the repair work. The cancellation of September cruises will at least double the initial estimate, and repair costs are likely to be much greater. The QE2 went aground off Cape Cod, Massachusetts, last week and was towed into dry dock at Boston harbour on Wednesday, two days behind

schedule, because of technical problems and adverse weather. Further delays in repairing the ship would be costly as each cancelled cruise means at least another £1 million added to the claim. Preliminary reports from the US National Transport Safety Board had suggested the QE2's keel had been pushed between 1ft and 1.5ft into the liner. "When we did that inspection, the dock was still full of water and the visibility was also extremely poor," a spokesman said. Leon Katcharian, an NTSB investigator, who examined the QE2 in dry dock, said the ship had a scratch about 400ft long, and two cracks about 6 inches long. Originally, the hull was described as having suffered several scratches, one 74ft long. The insurance of the Cunard fleet, owned by the Trafalgar House construction, property and hotels conglomerate, is led by Commercial Union, which is thought to have retained an exposure of the first £1 million of any claim and 20 per cent of any claim in excess of that amount on its own books. The rest of the exposure is spread around the London market. Cunard will have to pay the first £100,000 of any loss of business claims but is otherwise fully covered. Very little of the exposure is thought to be in Lloyd's.

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US dollar
1.9192 (-0.0128)
German mark
2.8174 (-0.0025)
Exchange index
91.8 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share
1753.8 (+31.6)
FT-SE 100
2356.8 (+38.8)
New York Dow Jones
3314.89 (+1.82)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
14820.25 (+52.08)

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank: 10%
3-month eligible bills: 9%
US: Prime Rate: 8%
Federal Funds: 5 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bill: 3.07-3.08%
30-year bonds: 99-96 1/4

London: New York
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Gold price forecast to slide further

By COLIN CAMPBELL, MINING CORRESPONDENT

GOLD ended the week after what dealers said had been a bloody five days at \$336 an ounce - down \$14.95 on its previous Friday close - with analysts predicting further falls. Yesterday's fall of \$1.50 took gold to within a whisker of the \$330 in quick level seen in May - which was a six-year low - and raised fears that \$300 an ounce could be in sight. James Neve, an analyst with the Commodity Research Bureau, based in America, said: "I can give you no economic justification for buying gold." The bureau's index

of 21 commodities fell to a six-year low on Wednesday, sparking a persistent wave of selling pressure. Platinum lost \$8.50 to \$344.50 an ounce yesterday in what dealers described as choppy conditions. The Japanese executed a large selling order in early dealings yesterday, which gave London a weak opening. By noon, platinum prices in London had staged some recovery, only to be knocked further back when New York markets opened. Dealers said that weak gold markets had been made additionally nervous by increased producer selling of the metal.

City thriller heads for best-seller list

By MARTIN WALLER

BOOKS on accountancy practice cannot normally expect to shoulder aside Jeffrey Archer and Jilly Cooper in the race for the best-seller lists. But City professionals, at least, who head off on holiday this month, might be packing a treatise on accounting methods alongside the sun-tan cream and beach towels. Publication of Terry Smith's *Accounting for Growth*, however, will depend on the outcome of a legal battle between him, his publishers and his employer, UBS Phillips & Drew. Last night, the securities house raised the stakes by issuing a writ against Mr Smith, its head of UK research, and the American-owned Random House. Mr Smith was suspended from his post on Wednesday after insisting on the book's publication against his employer's wishes. An injunction served yesterday, attempts to

present publication while accusing Mr Smith of breaching his contract of employment. Liz Stich, publicity director at Random House, confirmed last night that the action would be contested vigorously and said the firm was confident that the broker had no

scribblers" has troubled the small screen since the mass firings of the late 1980s. In suspending Mr Smith, UBS Phillips & Drew claimed he had breached internal procedures in preparing the book for publication. The firm denied suggestions that the suspension resulted from complaints by banking clients identified in the book. UBS Phillips & Drew, unavailable for comment last night, claims publication would infringe its copyright on the book and the earlier study. Random House claims extensive legal research proves the broker gave the necessary written clearance. Mr Smith, after a weekend's rest, can expect a gruelling week on the publicity treadmill, including bookshop signing sessions, if publication goes ahead. Broadgate's Books Etc branch, conveniently placed for UBS Phillips & Drew's City headquarters, is already lined up.

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Transatlantic sets sights on growth after listing

By Rodney Hobson

TRANSATLANTIC Holdings, which bought Capital & Counties and half of Sun Life, still aims to expand after its launch on the London Stock Exchange last month.

Donald Gordon, chairman, said the recession should create many opportunities for expansion in life insurance, property development, investment and financial services.

Transatlantic, with its powerful capital base, is particularly well placed to participate in the recapitalisation and restructuring process which even sound property and insurance businesses may find necessary," he said. The company had no specific targets in mind.

Mr Gordon was producing the first results since the listing. Pre-tax profits fell from £34.2 million to £26.6 million in the six months to June but the figures were distorted because Capital & Counties, the property group that owns

the Thurrock Lakeside shopping complex, in Essex, capitalised interest payments until a year ago. That added £15.8 million to last year's figure.

Earnings per share slumped to 5.08p from 9.16p, but that figure, too, was distorted, by a rights issue just before the half-year end.

The interim dividend remains at 6p on the enlarged capital. Transatlantic forecast an unchanged total of 12p for 1992 when it came to market and David Fischel, the managing director, says he sees no reason to recant.

The shares slipped 3p to 186p, leaving them 2p below the listing price. Mr Gordon said the price did not reflect Transatlantic's net asset value of around 300p per share, or the potential of the assets represented by its interests in Sun Life and Capital & Counties.

The asset value is based on December 1991 valuations of completed investment properties. The next valuation will be at the end of this year.

On net borrowings of £370 million, gearing is 35 per cent and £300 million of the debt is long-term, with an average maturity of 30 years. Mr Gordon said the conservative debt position, which primarily related to the property portfolio, was critical to Transatlantic's expansion strategy and differentiated it from other property-related investment companies.

Investment property values had continued to decline; rental pressure had been particularly severe in the office sector and depressed consumer spending had affected the performance of retail property.

The office side has contained the vacancy rate at 4 per cent. Mr Gordon said: "This is a higher level than we have been accustomed to in the past, but it is still an acceptable position in the current depressed conditions."

Sun Life has reported an encouraging increase in new business in the first six months of 1992, with total new premium income up by 39 per cent, to £886.1 million (£636.4 million).

LIT gives warning on losses

By Neil Bennett
Banking Correspondent

A FLOOD in the Chicago futures market and lower interest rates have blunted the recovery at LIT Holdings, the financial services group. The group has warned shareholders that losses will increase in the second half of the year. Pre-tax profits at LIT rose 17 per cent to £2.26 million in the first half of the year.

However, Christopher Whittington, the deputy chairman, said that the figures were worse than hoped and the group would have to renegotiate its debts with its bankers at the end of the year.

Profits at LIT America, the futures settlement business, halved to £1.06 million, due to a £1 million fall in interest received since it holds up to \$200 million in liquid funds. The company was also hit by lower market volumes and the flood in the Chicago market that damaged the computers. LIT normally makes most of its money in the first half. Last year, it made a loss of £636,000 in the second half.

Mr Whittington said: "If we lose more than that, we won't be making much of a profit at all." As a result, LIT is once again passing its interim dividend and not paying a dividend on its second preference shares.

Johnson Fry, the Business Expansion Scheme sponsor, had a strong half year and increased profits by 26 per cent to £2.41 million. The company raised £98.2 million in BES funds in the first half of the year, up from £57.1 million a year ago. Johnson Fry is trying to diversify its business.



Blooming profits: husband and wife Euan Cooper-Willis, chairman, and Susan Williams-Elis, deputy chairman

Portmeirion Potteries fires up profits

PORTMEIRION Potteries (Holdings), the Stoke-on-Trent pottery and decorated ceramic tableware group, lifted pre-tax profits 40 per cent to £1.4 million in the six months to end-June (Jon Ashworth writes).

Turnover was £10.4 million (£8.8 million) as sales at home and abroad began to pick up. Short time working and

reorganisation costs depressed the last set of results.

George Hesp, managing director, said UK sales were 15 per cent up on the first half of 1991 and margins continued to improve. His goal is to return to the £19.5 million sales achieved in 1990, which helped the company to pre-tax profits of £3.4 million for the year. "We

are unlikely to achieve that for a while," he said. "Margins have improved but sales are still lower than we'd like."

Steps to control costs and improve productivity have worked. The company plans to invest £1.5 million in new plant and equipment this year. Earnings rose 37 per cent to 8.89p (6.47p) a share. The interim dividend is held at 2.25p.

HK appoints inspector into affairs of Allied Group

FROM LULU YU IN HONG KONG

THE Hong Kong government has appointed Nicholas Allen, a partner in Coopers & Lybrand, to investigate the affairs of five listed companies related to Lee Ming Tee's Allied Group. Mr Allen was also asked to investigate the companies' dealings since 1990 in the shares of another five listed firms.

Dealing in the ten companies has been suspended since Wednesday afternoon. Allied Group said last night it had sought approval from the stock exchange to resume share trading on Monday.

The Securities and Futures Commission said it had re-

quested a government-appointed enquiry to look into possible breaches of the takeover code and disclosure rules, which require directors to reveal share dealings.

The securities watchdog said the study was triggered by concerns about a rights issue proposed by Wai Yick Ltd in January to fund a property acquisition from Mr Lee's company, Allied Properties (HK) Ltd. The firms, with Allied Group, Crusader Holdings and their subsidiaries, will have their affairs examined.

The SFC said it had found unusual share price move-

ments around the time of Mr Lee's proposals to merge Allied Properties, Allied Industries International and Asia Securities International with his flagship Allied Group, over the period between January 1990 and May 1992.

Allied Group issued a statement saying they did not believe the investigation "has any bearing on the underlying business operations and the asset value" of the group.

Hong Kong's share market was dragged down by uncertainty over the suspension of the companies, with the Hang Seng closing at 5,822, down 35 points.

Conder late in revealing losses

By Our City Staff

THE depth of the troubles at Conder, a Winchester construction company, is revealed in the delayed results for 1991, published six weeks beyond the six months allowed for the production of annual figures.

Conder says it has been "urgently pursuing a number of ways to strengthen the financial base of the company", including sale of its IEL subsidiaries and securing continued bank support.

It hopes the process will be concluded within weeks. Until then, KPMG Peat Marwick, the company's auditor, is unable to draw up the accounts on the basis that the group is a going concern.

Conder made a pre-tax loss of £22.6 million in 1991, compared with a loss of £19.3 million in 1990. It says it made a loss in the first half of this year but was trading profitably in May and June and will continue to do so in the second half.

The board said trading conditions in the UK remained depressed and no upturn was expected this year. In the US, there were signs of recovery.

Conder's profits peaked at £10.4 million in 1989 and the shares reached 910p in March 1990. Yesterday, they fell 5p to 8p.

Bimec cancels final and sends price plunging

SHARES in Bimec Industries, the Birmingham-based aerospace and engineering group, crashed from 19p to 3p in the wake of an announcement that it will not be able to pay its final dividend of 0.83p. The decision follows a sharp deterioration in trading conditions. Talks to sell the aerospace and industrial technology division had broken down. Business conditions deteriorated sharply and the outlook has worsened.

The shares bounced back from their early low to close at 64p. Earlier this week the group announced the acquisition of Pearl Contract Holdings, a building and maintenance services concern, from Cannon Street Investments. The consideration comprised 3.25 million Bimec shares, to be retained by the vendors for 12 months. Bimec said the sharp share fall in no way compromised the deal.

Burns shares suspended

Shares in Burns Anderson, the financial services and recruitment group that was expected to return to profits this year, were suspended at 2p at its request "pending clarification of the company's financial position". The company made losses in 1990 and 1991, but Alan Gunner, finance director, said in April that operating profits this time would be enough to cover interest charges. The contract of Sir John Harvey-Jones, the chairman, ran out in 1990. His replacement was voted out at the next annual meeting.

Copier duty continues

THE European Commission will continue applying anti-dumping duties of 20 per cent on Japanese photocopiers while it carries out a fresh enquiry into the EC market. After complaints from the European Photocopier-Maker Association, the commission said it was concerned that the European industry was working at less than full capacity and not making sufficient money to produce new models. The EC photocopier market is valued at about \$2 billion a year. The EC first imposed the duties on Japanese imports in 1987.

Trimoco fears takeover

THE board at Trimoco fears that the company could be taken over because of a misunderstanding among shareholders. An offer has been made by Hartwell, a rival motor trader that was obliged to bid under the City takeover code, after increasing its holding to more than 30 per cent. Trimoco says that some shareholders are interpreting the phrase "mandatory cash offer" as meaning that they must accept when it actually means that Hartwell is obliged to bid. The offer is 17½p a share against a stockmarket price of 20p.

Japanese rescue talks

KIICHI Miyazawa, prime minister of Japan, has called a meeting with the chairman of the Federation of Economic Organisations (Keidanren) to discuss how to bail the economy out of its slump, a Keidanren spokesman said. Gaishi Hiraoka, who heads the powerful business lobby group, is expected to urge the prime minister to speed up government efforts to launch an economic stimulus package, which is due to be announced by the end of this month.

Fletcher slide worsens

THIRTY-EIGHT per cent of the value of shares in Fletcher Challenge, the New Zealand forester, had been wiped off by the close yesterday after a two-month tumble. The price fell 19 cents on the day to \$2.33, the eighth straight day of decline. Annual results are due on Wednesday. The company, once New Zealand's largest, but now third, has forecast a bottom line loss of NZ\$155 million (£43 million) against NZ\$555 million profit in the year to March 1991.

MMI shares halve

SHARES in MMI, the financial marketing consultancy, fell 3½p to 7p yesterday as the company announced a placing and open offer to raise £300,000 and the appointment of a new chairman. Bob Morton, a City investor with investments in quoted companies, will take over from Adrian Bradshaw, who will remain group chief executive. Mr Morton, who holds 11 per cent of the company, has agreed to subscribe for 2.1 million new MMI ordinary shares at 5p each.

Hang Seng Bank grows

HANG Seng Bank, the Hong Kong bank that is 61 per cent owned by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, has fully disclosed profits for the six months to end-June, showing net profit of HK\$2.38 billion (£56 million) against HK\$1.95 billion. The interim dividend is HK\$0.56 (HK\$0.216) and the group says the year's final is expected to be at least HK\$1.11 a share, making at least HK\$1.67 for the year, and equivalent to a 67 per cent rise.

Canada airlines merger hits turbulence

FROM JOHN BEST IN OTTAWA

A PROPOSAL to merge Canada's two largest airlines, Air Canada and Canadian Airlines, has run into stiff opposition in Western Canada, with repercussions that spill over into the country's explosive national unity debate.

Political leaders in Western Canada, particularly the province of Alberta, have been seething ever since Canadian Airlines announced last month that it was prepared to enter into negotiations with its competitor. Both carriers are in deep financial trouble.

Canadian Airlines - known as Canadian Airlines International on foreign routes - is based in Calgary, Alberta.

Westerners view the proposed merger as a matter of Air Canada, with headquarters in Montreal, Quebec, swallowing up Canadian Airlines. Furthermore, they accused the Federal government in Ottawa of putting pressure on Canadian Airlines to enter into merger talks, the alleged purpose being to appease Quebec. This is all extremely inflammatory in the context of

a pending referendum on sovereignty in French-speaking Quebec, tentatively scheduled for October 26.

The charges of federal government favouritism towards Quebec and Air Canada have been denied recently by Brian Mulroney, the Prime Minister.

"This is the most distorted, unfair thing I have seen," a bristling prime minister told reporters. Far from turning its back on Canadian Airlines, the Conservative government had offered to help it, though

Mr Mulroney did not say how. Mr Mulroney did say, however, that he is heartened by the efforts of Canadian's employees and outside financial interests to raise about C\$200 million (£87 million) to keep the airline afloat. The money would be used as equity capital in a bid to encourage the reopening of negotiations between Canadian Airlines and American Airlines which broke down last month just before Canadian entered into merger talks with Air Canada.

Shorts takes off after decades in the hangar

Under state ownership, the aerospace firm seemed doomed to be permanently grounded. Takeover by Bombardier of Canada has saved it, says Harvey Elliott

ON November 23, 1990, Brian Little, vice-president of Shorts' newly created manufacturing division, met all 107 of the business's subcontractors and told them things were about to change. They responded with smiles and even stiffed guffaws.

They had heard it before. The struggling Northern Ireland aerospace company had been saying it through 40 years of state ownership. Since October, 1989, Shorts had had a new owner: Bombardier of Canada. But headquarters was far away and few of the specialist engineering firms that worked for Shorts believed that much would change.

Today, many of those companies are out of business - sent whirling into bankruptcy by one of the fastest changes ever seen in British aerospace manufacturing. Instead of sub-contracting precision work, Shorts now does it itself. The 107 subcontractors of little more than 18 months ago have shrunk to 14. Costs have been cut by 30 to 50 per cent.



Flying machine: Shorts is back in profit and its workforce is expanding

investment programme erases the last legacies of state ownership.

Two years after being bought by Bombardier, Shorts had doubled sales, turned a £47 million loss into a £24 million profit and employed almost 1,000 more people - most of them aged under 25. Trade unions, which at first opposed privatisation and the Canadian takeover, are now solidly in favour and have signed a three-year wages deal. Under

government ownership, Shorts had a name for bad time-keeping and seemed incapable of delivering on time. Aerospace customers heard endless excuses about shortage of capacity and parts, equipment problems and inadequate quality control.

The management had drawn up a blue-print for recovery before it was known that Shorts was to be privatised. When the announcement came, potential

buyers were given a ready-made survival plan. It coincided with Bombardier's own views.

The government was made to pay for the years of neglect. It agreed to write off £400 million of accumulated debt and to provide a further £450 million for investment. The money now being spent on Shorts is, therefore, from the taxpayer.

Shorts' skies are not without clouds. The RAF has taken delivery of 113 of the

130 Tucano trainers it ordered and no further sales are in sight. British Aerospace is in difficulties with its four-engined 146 regional jet for which Shorts makes the engine nacelles. Few buyers have been found for Canada's Regional Jet, for which Shorts makes the fuselage centre section.

Shorts builds the wings of Fokker's successful family of jets, but the Dutch company is being taken over by Deutsche Aerospace, with consequences no one can foresee. Defence cuts are shrinking sales of missiles around the world.

Roy McNulty, Shorts managing director, remains optimistic. "Privatisation came in the nick of time," he says. "Bombardier regard us as long-term players in the industry and they are going to generate new projects regularly." Shorts remains "positive" about its relationship with Fokker, he says, and has a market niche in mobile air-defence missiles.

Talks are taking place with several European companies about marketing agreements and joint projects, and the company is keeping an eye open for any bits of British Aerospace that might come on to the market and fit its strategic plan. That would not have happened under government control.

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Read Terry Smith's full report - exclusive to The Sunday Times tomorrow

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BUSINESS PROFILE: Murray Stuart

At last a true power in the land of his birth

William Kay meets the man who, after many senior posts, can still relish a new challenge with Scottish Power

Murray Stuart is a lifelong perfectionist who for many years looked doomed to disappointment. Ever since he qualified as a lawyer, then as a chartered accountant, his career has been a constant search for a succession of holy grails.

First he wanted to break into business. Then he wanted to graduate from being a mere numbers man to a managing director. Finally, he says, "in the last decade, my end game was to finish up as the chairman of a significant plc". The quest has taken him to ICL, Metal Box and Berisford International, all high on the list of corporate intensive care cases but none ultimately satisfying for someone of Stuart's ambition, or standards of perfection.

This month, however, he achieved his goal of an important chairmanship—and became a true

someone doesn't share my enthusiasm, either you get him a different type of job, or he just has to go, really."

Dr Brian Smith, chairman of BAA and Stuart's mentor at Metal Box and Berisford, says: "He is very much a perfectionist. At times he is not easy to work with because of that, but he really likes to have things right."

Stuart has been a plc chairman once before. He succeeded Smith at M&B-Caradon, the revamped version of Metal Box, but after six months he fell out with the Caradon management team and quit.

He is keen to dispel any suggestion of being an ogre. "I have had two secretaries in the past 20 years, which tells you I must be reasonably tolerable to live with, part of the time. Either that or I can pick enduring secretaries."

"He's a very fair person," says Jackie Matthews, his secretary for the past ten years. "He likes things done properly, and deep down he cares about people. He is a perfectionist and likes things done straight away, but he is always willing to listen to what you have to say. He works extremely hard and expects me to do the same."

Netta, his wife of 29 years, sees him as hard-working, ambitious and home-loving. "Life has not been without its worries, and we all share that with him," she told me. "But only the best will do for him. He is very caring."

When we met at Hill Samuel, where he is a vice-chairman, he was dressed in a smart grey suit and matching tie, topped by a slightly unruly tuft of brown hair. He took the trouble to fetch me himself from the waiting room. Afterwards he not only took me down in the lift, but walked me all the way to the door of the bank. Not many company chairmen go to that length. He puts it down to his Scots upbringing.

"I suppose, for the purposes of this sort of declaration, I'm middle class," he said. "My father was the managing director of a medium-sized textile company in Scotland,

'If someone doesn't share my enthusiasm, you either get him a different type of job, or he goes'

That prestigious job is but the jewel in a portfolio of appointments that takes in Hill Samuel Bank, Save & Prosper, the Audit Commission and West Surrey and North East Hampshire Health Authority.

He is 59, which makes it late in the day to be reaching a business pinnacle. Some of his contemporaries, such as Sir Nigel Brookes or Sir John Egan, have been at the top for more than ten years. But others of Stuart's generation, like James Gulliver or Sir Terence Conran, have fallen by the wayside.

That suggests someone of strong staying power, but whose talents may be too easily underestimated. His sharp financial brain, though widely attested, is disguised beneath a stammering, bear-like frame and an outwardly easy-going manner. However, he admits to being a demanding boss. "The people I've worked best with have shared my enthusiasm and that sometimes causes minor frictions," he says. "If

and I spent the first 27 and a half years of my life in growing up and being educated."

He was brought up near the Glasgow suburb of East Kilbride and had a long education—the sort that makes the Scots swell with pride, it goes on so long. He went to school at Glasgow Academy and then read history and geography at Glasgow University, where he gives the impression of having been the life and soul of the campus.

"I had a lot of activities and hobbies and things to do, a bit like now," he says. "I was flying with the university air squadron; I was playing rugby or cricket; I was chairman of the Law Society; I was a member of the Young Unionists, the Scottish name for the Young Conservatives, and I used to do lots of public speaking and things like that. So I was always very busy and I've kept it that way all my life."

This probably explains why Stuart believes he can never take it easy. "I find it very difficult to sit



Relaxing: Murray Stuart finds it hard because he always feels he should be doing something else

down and relax," he explains, "because I feel I should be doing something. Once I had qualified I remember travelling somewhere and thinking 'Why aren't I reading something?' That instinct of wanting to do something all the time has been with me ever since. Hopefully, as you get older you become a little bit more discerning about it and realise that activity is not the only thing."

After he had picked up his first degree, Stuart soldiered on to a law course. This was a very different matter. "In those days you attended classes at dawn and dusk, literally," he recalls. "We started at eight in the morning, did two classes and then worked in a lawyer's office, then in the evening did another two classes between six and eight, and then went home and worked. It was a very, very different lifestyle to today's education system."

As if that were not enough, after Stuart had qualified as a lawyer the firm he was with suggested that he

became a chartered accountant as well. That meant going through the same morning, noon and night routine for another three and a half years.

"That I found more rugged than the law," Stuart admits. "The examinations were harder, and I was older. It was definitely a tough time of life." But law and accountancy was a combination Stuart's firm had found useful for their commercial practice. He went back into the firm in 1961 at the princely salary of £300 a year. "I was expected to live on that," says Stuart dismissively. "But fortunately my middle-class parents were still supporting me. I went straight into industry and quadrupled my pay overnight."

He embarked on an odyssey of a dozen different organisations by joining P & W McLellan, a small quoted engineering firm. He soon wanted something bigger and better and found that such jobs were not in Scotland. Ford Motor Com-

pany was expanding, took on Stuart as an internal auditor and helpfully put him through a management development course.

"But Ford was being Americanised," he pointed out, "and that meant we had the diktat of the people in the States, who had one insatiable demand—for paper, all the time, about this, about that, and we got fed up with it. A large number of people left, of whom I was one."

Stuart had then had several years in the provinces, ending in what he describes as a "boring" 18 months with J. Hepworth, the men's outfitter, before it turned itself into Next. "Out of the blue I was headhunted to become finance director of ICL," he says, "which was in one of its troubled modes. So I carried myself and my two kids, who were very small at the time, down to London and had a baptism by fire."

Stuart struck up a good relationship with Geoffrey Cross, who was running ICL. In five years they took the company from the brink of one of its near-insolvencies to the top of the earnings per share growth league. It proved an excellent stepping stone for Stuart.

"Every director, no matter what his trade, had a collection of customers to look after," he says. "That was very good for me. We dealt with the government, as it owned shares in ICL for part of the time. It was one of the most formative parts of my life. In a highly complex, sophisticated business, working under tremendous pressure." But it was too good to last. Cross left, there were more management changes, and then Stuart had a telephone call inviting him to join Metal Box. "It was at that stage a bigger company than ICL," he says. "For the first time I was probably not gaining experience so much as using it."

Again, Stuart helped to bring recovery. In the nine years he was there, the Metal Box share price grew ten times and profits increased every half year.

After five years the group recruited Brian Smith as chairman from ICL and they hammered out the Caradon-Metal Box merger. That left them with the building products division and the subsequent Caradon merger which led to Smith's retirement and Stuart's departure.

"My intention was to pick up

some non-executive activities," says Stuart. "Instead, Brian asked me to help him out at Berisford. It was a rather longer interlude than I had planned." Berisford was the commodity-trading business which was quickly being swallowed by its debts. Smith and Stuart sold businesses worth £1.3 billion, including British Sugar for £900 million.

Stuart was again working long hours. "It was one of the archetypal situations where the chairman and chief executive and other members of the board were given far too much authority," he says. "And the banks just fell over themselves to lend Berisford money."

Stuart has understandably little sympathy for the banks. "They couldn't distinguish between giving us a rough time and the original people who had caused all the difficulty," he says. "Very strange. I much prefer the more conventional atmosphere. There wasn't much difficulty about choosing to go to Scottish Power."

He clearly intends to make the most of his time, probably diversifying the company into telecommunications and other non-regulated activities. "There's a lot to be done," he says, "because I'd like to leave it a bigger company than it is."

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Matthew Bond

Dorrell's hand on the pump gives new meaning to inflation in the economy

JUST a few short weeks ago Stephen Dorrell was... well, not exactly a household figure. But now the name of the financial secretary to the Treasury falls regularly from the most distinguished lips.

The slightest quiver in the economic statistics, and the cry goes up: "What does Dorrell think?" or "Has Dorrell spoken?" Lesser minds among the business and political communities hang on his every word: "Good old Dorrell, he'll tell us what to do." So ubiquitous has he become, that it is difficult to recall the vacuum he now so awesomely fills.

Conservative faint-hearts and economic pundits tremble at the mere mention of his name, less it unleash another slingshot of well-aimed rhetoric. Economic fixes will not be quick; currencies will not be debauched and—above all—terminal gloom will not be talked into Dorrell, you see, has spoken.

Carpe diem may be a good enough motto for most men of action, but not for our hero. For Mr Dorrell has not as much seized the day, as seized the summer holiday. Not far from him the golden beaches of Barbados or verdant hills of Tuscany. Instead, he has spent his August at work basking in the unfamiliar glare of the media spotlight.

But that is not to say that the industrious minister is missing out on the holiday spirit altogether. A sun-obsessed tabloid press and a regular supply of saucy "weather lovely, glad you're still there" postcards from his colleagues has made sure of that. In particular, Mr Dorrell—a man keen to put the best possible front on otherwise modest figures—has become intrigued by the potential offered by the latest thing in beach chic, the inflatable bikini top.

He believes a simple modification of this ingenious device could be just the thing for the ailing British economy and a distinctly saggy pound. So while the Tokyo and London stock markets have their support levels (don't they?) and the dollar gets its uplift from a



new 24-hour grille of central bank intervention, the British economy is once again to be fitted with a corset. But this time it is to be inflatable.

A carefully concealed pump hidden somewhere between invisible earnings and the central statistical office will allow the corset to be discreetly inflated, painlessly squeezing most of the life out of the economy, but producing the sort of athletic V shape so beloved by foreign exchange dealers and so feared by the German beach bullies. You know, the ones who are always the first to the interest rate change. But not for much longer if Mr Dorrell gets his way... and the elastic holds.

Already there are a few tentative signs that this cosmetic shift in the economic silhouette could actually work. How else do you explain that the government was able to produce statistics that unexpectedly showed both industri-

al and manufacturing output rising, just 24 hours after the Confederation of British Industry reported that most of its members were seeing output falling?

Either it is Mr Dorrell and his pump, or the CBI and the government no longer speak the same language, a possibility reinforced by the government stating that annual price rises are running at 6 per cent just 48 hours after the CBI had plumped for a figure rather closer to 4 per cent.

And what about the government's confidence in announcing that it was considering a plan to cut the eligibility period for claimants to receive unemployment benefit by half, just two days before the unemployment figures hit a five-year high? Gross insensitivity, or the certain knowledge that Mr Dorrell's pneumatic corset was about to shift the unwelcome burden somewhere less conspicuous?

But most significantly of all, how do you explain that the London stock market chose Thursday to end seven consecutive days of decline, despite the adverse unemployment and earnings figures and scenes of carnage on the foreign exchange markets? Pump, pump, pump and lo and behold, with an almost audible gasp, inflation fell to 3.7 per cent just one day later.

Sadly, however, not every body has been taken in by the economy's new shape. The foreign exchange dealers, whose exotic appetites Mr Dorrell had particularly hoped to cater for, were unmoved. Or at least they moved no further than necessary to hit the "sell" button, anchoring sterling firmly to the floor of the European Monetary System.

However, time and further pumping may yet cure them of their scepticism. Which is more than can be said for their counterparts on the dollar dealing desks. For while Nicholas Brady may be a rather more exalted species of treasury secretary than Mr Dorrell (hard to believe, I know) the American looks something of a novice in the field of currency support. How else can you describe a man, who, faced with a dollar on the run, calmly denies that there is a policy to passively devalue the dollar only to add minutes later he can think of no reason why American interest rates should not move lower? Who said expert?

Certainly not Mr Dorrell, who is confident of impressing his boss, should the great man ever return from his Tuscan travels.

After all, look at his success with interest rates. On Monday, the Skipton Building Society decided that the solution to its funding problem lay with higher mortgage rates, sparking alarm far beyond the house market. However, a vigorous bout of Dorrellian pumping later and the rest of the industry opted for lower savings rates instead. The relief was almost tangible. Keep pumping, Mr Dorrell. Only a fortnight to go.

Where to find limited shelter in a housing sector fractured by stress

FOR housebuilders, the past few months are proof of the old adage that things are never so bad that they cannot get worse—the industry incurred, on one estimate, £1 billion of trading losses and write-downs, admitted or yet to come, last year.

A year ago, even the most pessimistic observers were prepared to countenance some recovery in the second half of this year against a background of falling mortgage rates. As the peak summer selling season for homes draws to a close, any upturn has now been pushed firmly into next year or even 1994.

House prices are expected to continue to fall, Morgan Grenfell confirmed last week in a gloomy forecast, with the South East again worst hit. Mortgage rates are, if not under pressure, certainly in no position now to offer a quick kick-start to the housing market.

Further pain can be expected in this autumn's interim results season. Analysts believe several builders have still not brought book values of their stock and land down to realistic levels. Those that recover fastest and prosper in the 1990s will inevitably be the ones with sufficient supplies of the right land and low debt.

Describing such a mythical beast is easy but they are in rather short supply on the stock market. Prices have plummeted since post-election highs and some may have fallen too far.

Andrew Melrose, construction analyst at Nomura Research Institute, emphasises he is not a buyer of the sector, but likes Tay Homes, which has the benefits of concentration in Scotland and the north of England and a long, well-consented landbank, which gives it the chance to boost volumes sharply in future, the key to success in a time of low asset price inflation. But he cautions that Tay is weighed down with high debt.

The shares have been as



Seeking gloss finish: Mike Hennessy of Kalon, which has bid for Manders

high as 235p this summer and now at 61p, sell on 7.5 times earnings to end-June, about half the expected average multiple for contracting and construction as a whole for 1992.

Kevin Scothcer, of Kleinwort Benson, favours Bellway as a defensive play, as a housebuilder that is debt-free after a well-timed rights issue last summer. That allowed it to buy land at the sort of prices that guarantee profits even if house prices fall further, and the company is sitting on a landbank of more than 7,000 plots.

Bellway does not come as cheap as Tay. The shares have also come back sharply this summer, from a high of 307p, and at 203p, sell on 12.6 times earnings to end-July and ten times 1992-3.

David Mathers at James Capel, while pointing out that Capel is broker to the company, picks Wilson Bowden, a conservative business that enjoys low gearing and a land bank good for half a decade. The shares have fallen further than most.

from 481p in April to 240p, at which they change hands on 14 times 1992 earnings.

Kalon/Manders

THE paint appears to have dried for Kalon and its unwanted bid for Manders (Holdings). With less than a week to go, Manders shares have stuck at about 211p, more than 20p shy of Kalon's all-share offer, and 30p below the combined cash and share terms.

Having made much of the rumour, Kalon has lost its way and certainly missed a trick in not issuing a profit forecast for the full year with its interim this month, particularly after pouring scorn on Manders's own forecast a few days earlier. The market was bound to wonder whether the Kalon board was growing twitchy about the second half.

Profit margins were wrenched wider during the recession, when Kalon took advantage of the growing preference for cheaper pri-

rate based paint against branded products, chiefly Dulux. But they were always going to prove too tempting for its DIY customers, locked in a vicious price war. And Mike Hennessy, managing director, must also put more non-core reorganisation costs through the profit and loss account.

That Kalon's record is the stronger of the two brooks no dispute, but how much does its management need Manders's paint business to sustain its performance? Manders, meanwhile, still fails to impress, despite vague promises of future gloss. It can, however, count on income from its Mander Centre retail property to underpin earnings and almost finance the dividend alone.

Kalon's case has not been completely convincing, and its stinginess with cash a little disappointing as a result it may get the brush-off. If so, Manders should lose no time patting itself on the back. For a start, it will probably have a falling share price on its hands.

BRITISH FUNDS

1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	994	993	992	991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Savers no longer feel rich



LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

THE fall in the inflation rate during July may have been greeted with less than euphoria by most savers yesterday. The new annual inflation rate of 3.7 per cent is down 0.2 per cent but their interest rates have fallen further in real terms.

Most, however, do not feel rich in real terms, despite entreaties to do so by the savings institutions that are cutting interest rates. It is time for savers to be told they are getting historically high real interest rates. Convinced they are another matter.

Weekend Money receives many letters from people who depend on the interest earned on savings to supplement their income. The letters ask how they are better off. For example, they say that 18 months ago they received £3,000 in interest on savings. Now, after moving accounts to keep with the best rates, they are receiving £2,200. They do not feel better off and, because living costs are rising, they have to use capital to replace the shortfall in income and to make up for inflation.

They ask why they are better off when they have to raid £1,000 a year

from their savings. It makes little difference to them whether it is withdrawn to be spent or its value is eroded by inflation. They feel richer if they do not have to raid their savings and they would appreciate a little honesty rather than politicians and savings institutions telling them they have never been luckier.

They will welcome the Abbey National's decision to do nothing about its mortgage rates or its savers' rates this week. As a publicly quoted company, Abbey has shareholders to keep happy, unlike the building societies. But it says it can continue with the current margins between savers' and mortgage rates.

The government has cut National Savings rates twice in the past month but they are still attractive and Abbey National is aware that people who are struggling to manage on the income from their savings will be attracted to better

rates on offer elsewhere, especially if these carry the guarantee of the government. No other financial institution has such security. But with every cut in rates, thousands of savers look at what they are being paid and what else is on offer and make a move. Those who feel poorer as savings rates fall could be tempted to deposit their money with disreputable companies because they appear to offer the best rates.

There has been a steady flight to quality in the past few years. Memories of Barlow Clowes were compounded by the Bank of Credit

and Commerce International. Nervous savers only put £20,000 with any one building society for fear of it folding and the compensation scheme being called into play. But still they worry. The best rates always seem to be offered by the smaller organisations that they have not heard of. That is why these organisations have to offer such rates and why investors need to be wary.

Innocent suffer

IT IS four years since the government launched its "pensions revolu-

tion". One "revolutionary" act was to tell people they would be free to opt out of the straitjacket of the state earnings-related pension scheme and arrange to have monthly payments diverted to their personal pension. The money could grow more quickly in a personal pension than in Serps, so benefiting future pensioners. At the same time, the government could start to rid itself of an expensive state scheme.

The least anyone playing the government's game has a right to expect is that the administrative system would run smoothly. But it does not and never has done, despite having had years to sort itself out.

This week, it emerged that tens of thousands of people have not had rebates paid into their schemes. Some of these date back to July 1988. Nearly 9,000 customers of only one life office, Laurentian, have not had rebates paid into personal

pensions taken out between July 1988 and December 1991. It estimates that policyholders could have lost up to £500 because of the delays. Other life offices, including Scottish Amicable, Scottish Provident, Standard Life and Legal & General have several thousand cases outstanding.

The social security department and the life offices are pointing accusing fingers at each other, as institutions have a habit of doing. The DSS says it has not received forms. Life offices say these have either been lost by the DSS or wrongly calculated.

As life offices and the social security department appear to be by-words for administrative inefficiency, it is most likely that both sides are responsible for the present confusion. Doubtless this will emerge in the meetings being held between insurers and the social security department.

But the people who suffer are, as always, innocent policyholders. Both sides now need to move quickly to pay compensation to all those affected.

Students struggle to meet mounting debts

Liz Dolan reports
that the average
amount owed on
leaving further
education is £1,765

AS PROSPECTIVE higher education students near open A level results and dream of three years of study and fun, many of those already at college and university are struggling to feed, clothe and house themselves. The steep increase in student debt has sparked numerous calls for help from organisations ranging from those with an obvious axe to grind, such as the National Union of Students, to more neutral bodies, such as the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (NACAB) and Barclays Bank.

A Barclays report, out next week, calculates that the average student leaving college this year will owe £1,765. Male students will have borrowed, on average, nearly 30 per cent more than females in the three years.

Despite its recent introduction, the government's student loan scheme will represent the largest single source of debt at 31 per cent. Bank overdrafts account for 25 per cent and borrowing from families 21 per cent. About 40 per cent of respondents were angry at being unwillingly forced into debt. 12 per cent feared they would never repay their debts, or were concerned about the length of time it would take them to do so.

Because of the student loan scheme, introduced in September 1990, overall student debt is set to rise steeply. In three years, average debt at the end of a three-year course is unlikely to be below £2,800, the report, *Marketing to Students*, said.

Some students are so bogged down by their financial problems that they leave college or university. The survey said: "While debt is only ever one factor in a major radical decision, it is a major factor. Fear that funds will run out before the end of the course, coupled with the fear of a debt mountain at graduation, are a barrier to course completion."

Barclays commissioned the survey, carried out by the NUS's marketing division, so that it could help its customers cope with their finances.

A Barclays spokesman said: "Our student banking options have been reporting a surprising degree of ignorance among students about options available to them. Only by gathering this information and finding out the problems involved can we try and stop them getting into trouble... for both our sakes." The



"Grant didn't cover rent": Shelley Harknett could not afford to complete her course

survey said: "Over the past seven years, the government changes to benefit regulations have steadily eroded a major source of student income. The recent recession has destroyed a high proportion of vacation jobs. Hence, we would expect student debt to be on a sharp rise at present."

However, because the concept of student loans and working one's way through college are new to British students, there was likely to be more anxiety while debts were still increasing than when they reached a higher, but more stable, level. NACAB is mounting the situation with a view to producing a report in the autumn. Its survey, *Diminishing Options*, published last year, was dismissed by the government as "totally anecdotal". Consequently, all CABs have been detailed to collect statistical evidence.

Joe Gibbons, of NACAB,

said: "It's too early to say what has been happening, but I can't imagine the situation has improved."

Diminishing Options blamed the job shortage, the fall in the real value of student grants and the abolition of housing benefit and income support in September 1990 for the steep increase in the numbers of students in serious financial difficulties visiting CABs in 1991.

It said students from low income backgrounds were among the hardest hit. Student loans and the new Access Fund for exceptional hardship cases did not appear to have compensated for the loss of benefits and falling grant income, it said.

"The withdrawal of housing benefit had also taken place against a background of rising private sector rents. A further loss had been the removal of the vacation hardship allowance, a discretionary local

authority grant for students in financial distress.

Cindy Rowley, head of the NUS research department, said students were still awaiting the findings of a House of Commons select committee, which looked at the subject. She said: "We have always said the loan system is a very expensive way of financing students. It won't pay for itself until 2020. We think that money would have been better spent on grants."

Ms Rowley, an American who came to Britain to do her masters degree, said the American system on which the new British one was modelled, was showing signs of falling apart. About 22 per cent of former students were defaulting on government loans. Enrolments were decreasing as fees and living expenses burgeoned and more and more students were being forced to study locally. This was the solution suggested by many MPs in Britain, she said, but "leaving home to study is a necessary part of growing up for many people."

Balancing studies with the need to work to survive

was often in trouble for leaving college early, or arriving at work late."

She survived until the third year without recourse to either loans or bank overdrafts. "What finally did it for me was taking a holiday last summer. I really needed one, but it cost me £300 and I never caught up after that." She found the idea of debt frightening. "I was brought up to pay my way."

The final blow was the need to raise between £500 and £1,000 for her end-of-course fashion show. "We don't take a final exam. Everything depends on the show. We were supposed to find sponsors. I wrote around 100 letters but only got one donation, £50 from Condé Nast. I was making too many compromises on materials to save money and I knew I couldn't do myself justice, so I left."

Ms Harknett had no idea that her student loan was indexed-related. She said there had been no direct communication with the Student Loan Company. "I simply went along to the welfare office and filled in a form. They didn't

even tell me that money had been paid into my bank. I only discovered it when I went along to my bank when I was desperate and they told me the money was in my account." As well as the loan, she will have to repay the £600 grant she received for her third term.

The Disney Store in Regent Street employs a number of students who work during term time and holidays to supplement their grant. They include Sharm Ray, 25, studying for a BEd at the North London Polytechnic. Dipa Shah, 20, taking a business degree at Middlesex University. Julian Stockton, 22, studying for a BA (Business Studies) at the University of Westminster and Frances Lafferty, 20, a post-graduate student in Personnel Studies, also at the North London Poly.

They say that many of their friends have to take two, or even three, jobs to survive. All are worried about the loan scheme. One said: "They're very tempting, very easy to take out, but it makes me feel very uneasy, especially as we now have to pay poll tax as well." Ms Ray is working

seven days a week. "I have no days off. It's either college or Disney. And there is no extra money. I need it all just to live. Our Access Fund was frozen half way through the first term because they spent too much money the year before," she said. Both Ms Shah and Ms Lafferty live at home, but still say they need to work to survive.

Mr Stockton said: "The increasing hardship means that, very soon, higher education is only going to be available to people of means. That contradicts the entire purpose of higher education as a way to better yourself in society." He added that he had been forced to take a job because of the abolition of housing benefit and the introduction of poll tax. His security, he said, has been threatened by a first-time tax demand this summer, despite being a full-time student.

The students say their relationships with their banks varies, depending on how they are treated by their bank managers. One said her manager shows great concern, going to the extent of checking up on her eating habits. All were fully versed in the relative merits of student accounts. A significant majority had been tempted by Barclays' £25 cash offer in preference to other sweeteners.

LIZ DOLAN

Counting the cost of grants and loans

STUDENTS living away from home and studying in London now receive a maximum grant of £3,675, falling to £3,450 in their final year. Those outside London receive £2,980 or £2,790. Those living at home receive up to £2,365, or £2,210 (Liz Dolan writes).

Loans on the same basis are: £830 and £605; £715 and £525; £570 and £415. Repayments start the April after the course ends. The loans are repaid in roughly equal amounts by direct debit over the succeeding five years for three-year courses, or seven years for longer periods of study. Repayment is deferred for the unemployed or people earning less than 85 per cent of the national average wage. From August 1, 1992, deferment is granted to those whose gross income is £1,130 a month or less. Many students are still unaware that

these loans are index-linked. Interest is charged at a daily rate from the time the loan is taken out. In the first year of operation, interest was charged at 9.8 per cent. In the second year, just finished, it was reduced to 5.8 per cent. The rate for next year is 3.9 per cent.

The loans company employs debt collectors to deal with overdue repayments. Defaulters may also be taken to court and may be fined, or even sent to prison. The government says that, as only 38 per cent of eligible students applied for a loan last year, most appear to be managing satisfactorily on their grants. However, the NUS maintains that students see loans as a last resort.

The abolition of DSS benefits for students was partially softened by the instigation of an Access Fund for people in severe financial difficulties. This was

increased this year from £25 million to £26.2 million. The NUS points out that, in its last year of operation, the benefits system paid £68 million to qualifying students in rent and income supplements. In addition, the fund is apportioned to individual colleges and universities who operate the scheme independently. Many of these institutions ran out of money early in the last academic year. The education department said that £50,000 is left in the fund, but there was no way that those in need at a college whose funds have run out have access to the residue.

Some of the most severe financial problems have arisen among people who do not qualify for mandatory grants. Some local education authorities have no money left to spend on discretionary grants.

PEP M&G DIVIDEND PERFORMANCE SINCE LAUNCH

Year Ended 31st Dec	£6,000 Lump Sum			£50 per month		
	M&G Dividend Net	M&G Dividend Gross	Gross Building Society	Amount Invested	M&G Dividend Net	M&G Dividend Gross
6.5.1964	£5,000	£6,000	£6,000	£50	£50	£50
1964	5,796	5,796	6,230	350	319	357
1965	6,504	6,672	6,633	950	974	1,001
1966	6,120	6,360	7,094	1,550	1,456	1,487
1967	7,224	7,728	7,610	2,150	2,331	2,424
1968	9,900	10,872	8,187	2,750	3,866	4,087
1969	8,256	8,252	8,872	3,350	3,766	4,022
1970	8,376	9,636	9,634	3,950	4,411	4,784
1971	12,696	15,036	10,437	4,550	7,452	8,236
1972	15,696	18,960	11,286	5,150	9,839	11,017
1973	11,832	14,496	12,395	5,750	7,869	8,878
1974	7,224	9,036	13,810	6,350	5,225	5,956
1975	16,164	20,760	15,373	6,950	12,446	14,446
1976	15,540	20,436	17,078	7,550	12,512	14,770
1977	24,696	33,288	18,939	8,150	20,559	24,739
1978	27,396	37,812	20,817	8,750	23,390	28,689
1979	28,476	40,176	23,434	9,350	24,848	31,022
1980	32,436	46,836	27,023	9,950	28,864	36,727
1981	37,464	55,488	30,688	10,550	33,929	44,107
1982	45,672	69,288	34,667	11,150	41,987	55,689
1983	65,964	102,180	38,362	11,750	61,304	82,115
1984	90,504	142,368	42,722	12,350	84,781	116,061
1985	112,968	180,180	48,189	12,950	106,466	147,530
1986	152,352	245,892	53,615	13,550	144,214	201,966
1987	184,248	300,696	59,392	14,150	174,961	247,537
1988	203,160	335,220	65,131	14,750	193,510	276,549
1989	257,076	428,544	73,382	15,350	245,483	354,160
1990	218,640	368,880	84,046	15,950	209,307	305,380
1991	226,320	387,120	93,554	16,550	217,187	321,009
31.7.1992	231,840	403,200	98,719*	16,900	222,796	334,657

Notes: The values shown have been calculated as if an M&G PEP and its current tax treatment were available throughout the period shown. All net figures include re-invested income. M&G Dividend figures show the return to the investor. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office). The regular savings figures exclude the last payment and all payments apart from the first are made on the last business day of the month. An investment in M&G Dividend of £6,000 on 31st July, 1987 would be worth £5,764 by 31st July, 1992 with net income reinvested and £6,143 with gross income reinvested. An investment of £50 per month from 31st July, 1987 (£3,000) would be worth £2,915 by 31st July, 1992 with net income reinvested and £3,029 with gross income reinvested. *Estimated using current interest rate levels. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up. You may get back less than you invested.

To: The M&G Group, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. Tel: (0245) 390390 (Business Hours). Please send me a free copy of the latest M&G Handbook including details of how to invest in M&G's range of unit trusts through a lump sum, savings plan or the M&G PEP. NO SALESMAN WILL CALL.

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UNIT TRUSTS · PEPs · SAVINGS PLANS

ABI cites 'diabolical' claims record but denies discriminating against people on benefits



Given notice: Douglas Cockbain has had to ask his tenants to leave because he cannot find affordable insurance

Insurers refuse to cover house with DSS tenants

Sara McConnell looks at one landlord's dilemma, which suggests there is confusion within insurance companies

INSURERS have been accused by government officials of discriminating against landlords with tenants on social security. While the insurers deny this, the case of Douglas Cockbain, a Devon landlord, suggests there is confusion within companies.

Mr Cockbain had been a customer of Norwich Union for six years and had never made a claim. However, when he tried to renew his buildings insurance in May this year, he was refused, on the grounds that he had two tenants living with him. He had told the company, on his broker's advice, that both were receiving state benefits.

This week, after *Weekend Money* asked the company to look at the case again, Norwich Union admitted it had been "over zealous" and "too harsh" in refusing him. But it said it would almost certainly not have taken him on if he had been a new customer. It denied this was because the tenants were on benefits.

Hill House Hammond, Mr Cockbain's broker, was unable to find any insurer willing to offer him cover or even quote a premium after he had been

turned down by his existing company. The only insurer prepared to offer cover was Lloyd's of London. The annual buildings insurance premium, for a sum insured of £160,000, quoted through C&I Insurance Services, another broker, was £272 "if the property was used as your main residence and you had two lodgers (not DSS) occupying the premises with yourself and your family", and £1,360 "if the premises were occupied by DSS residents".

Mr Cockbain has now had to give his tenants notice because he cannot find affordable insurance. He said: "All the companies asked verbally if my tenants were receiving benefits then refused me."

Ministers are becoming concerned at apparent evidence of discrimination. Officials from the social security, trade and environment departments met the Association of British Insurers last

month after a "number of complaints" from landlords were received by the trade department. The ABI argued that the claims record on properties containing short-term tenants was "often diabolical". It said: "We told the government departments that any short-term tenancies can be a problem and this includes six month short-term tenancies. It is more often a problem when the landlord does not live on the premises. You can end up with something like a leaking tap that is left until it becomes a massive problem and an insurance claim."

But it denied that insurers discriminated against people purely because they were on DSS benefits. The ABI has now written to all its members explaining that the government departments had been told how insurance companies assessed risk and that the government was "satisfied with the explanation". Peter

Young, Hill House Hammond's regional manager, Devon and Cornwall, said: "The claims experience on properties let to DSS tenants and students has been very bad. Even if the landlord is living in the house, a tenant could get upset by the landlord and set fire to the place. Underwriting individual cases is uneconomical now so insurers are just doing it by the book. It is worrying that an awful lot of people haven't thought about telling their insurers they have tenants. But it is a ridiculous situation. There are so many people without houses in this country but if they can't get insurance as tenants, they are back to square one."

Leading building insurers hotly deny discrimination, however. Steve Turner, Sun Alliance's superintendent, household, said: "We don't have any evidence to suggest that DSS tenants are a worse risk than any other tenant."

Legal & General said that it would not discriminate against tenants just because they were receiving benefits and that it "judged every situation on its own merits".

Doctors go for gold credit cards

By JILL INSLEY

DOCTORS this week became the latest professional group to be offered their own credit cards.

The British Medical Association, through its financial subsidiary, BMA Services, has secured a deal with Beneficial Bank to provide a gold Visa card for its members. The move puts the BMA in the same league as the National Federation of Fish Fryers, the Royal College of Midwives, the Professional Footballers' Association and the Musicians' Union, all of whom offer credit cards to members.

The BMA card, available from September 22, is aimed at members earning £25,000 and above and probably aged 30 or older. A standard Visa card will be offered to those earning less.

Beneficial Bank, which pro-

vides Visa cards to special interest groups, will charge an interest rate of 21.9 per cent APR. Unlike most mainstream credit cards, the BMA gold card will not charge an annual fee.

Bruce Turnbull, sales and marketing controller for Beneficial Bank, attributes the competitive charging structure to the amount the cards are expected to be used.

Mr Turnbull said Beneficial's affinity card holders typically debit three times as much from their accounts as mainstream bank Visa holders.

Beneficial Bank and the Bank of Scotland are the two main issuers of affinity cards to working groups.

Universities also have targeted present and past students. The Open University

has been particularly successful, issuing 35,000 cards in the past three years and earning £162,000 plus value-added tax in the first two years.

Because the interest groups are able to promise that a relatively large number of their members will take out a card, they can negotiate preferential terms with the issuing bank and often benefit from a commission of £5 or £10 per card issued. In some deals, the association receives a small sum for every £100 spent.

For every gold card issued, the BMA will receive £5, and the organisation is negotiating a share in profits resulting from use of the card.

The BMA gold card offers its users £100,000 free travel accident insurance, commission-free travellers' cheques, and free purchase protection insurance of up to £2,500 each year.

Beneficial Bank negotiates

terms and interest rates with each affinity group. So while members of the British Airline Pilots' Association are charged 20.9 per cent APR for their Visa cards, holders of Royal College of Nursing cards are charged 25.5 per cent APR. Members of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation are charged 23.9 per cent APR.

The Bank of Scotland provides three standard Mastercard charging structures and one for gold cards.

Fee-paying card holders, such as members of the National Federation of Fish Fryers, the National Hairdressers' Federation and the Driving Instructors' Association make an annual payment of £10 and pay interest rates of 26 per cent APR.

The Association of Royal Navy Officers has elected not to pay an annual fee, but instead pays a higher interest rate of 28.8 per cent APR.

'Get rich quick' schemes action

THE trade department has taken action against several "get rich quick" schemes touted to the public in mailings and by salesmen (Lindsay Cook writes). It said: "We take what action is necessary and that may be to stop the person trading."

As *Weekend Money* reported last week, people are being recruited to schemes with the promise of high earnings only to find that they can only earn the money by selling the scheme to large numbers of people.

The Multi Level Marketing International Association, the trade body for network marketers, next week launches a video for prospective recruits to help them judge different companies and their promises. It provides a checklist for people considering offering their services.

Geoff Sharp, former owner of Sharp's Bedroom Furniture, whose name is being used by one mailing that has been doing the rounds for a number of years, said this week he had reported the matter to the police and advised others to do the same or bin the letters. The scheme asks people to send £5 to four people to get reports then encourages them to mail hundreds or thousands of others suggesting they do the same.

An Edward Green is claimed to have devised the scheme and retired from it when he made £4 million. The letter sent in Mr Sharp's name, claims he expects to make more from the scheme than he did from his business. Its author appears unaware that Hawley Group, which bought Sharps, sold it in 1986 and changed its name to ADT in 1988.

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REVISED INVESTMENT INTEREST RATES

EFFECTIVE FROM 15 AUGUST 1992

MAIN DISCONTINUED ISSUES

Rate unchanged	% Gross	% Net	% Net
£20,000 or more	10.75	11.30	8.36
£25,000 - £49,999	10.50	10.80	7.73
£10,000 - £24,999	9.62	10.06	7.22
£5,000 - £9,999	8.53	9.30	6.70
£1 - £4,999	2.80	2.02	1.50

Rate unchanged	% Gross	% Net	% Net
£20,000 or more	11.00	-	8.25
£10,000 - £19,999	10.75	-	8.06
£2,000 - £9,999	10.55	-	7.91
£1 - £1,999	2.80	-	1.50

Rate unchanged	% Gross	% Net	% Net
£20,000 or more	10.48	-	7.86
£10,000 - £19,999	10.25	-	7.69
£5,000 - £9,999	10.07	-	7.53
£1 - £4,999	2.00	-	1.50

Rate unchanged	% Gross	% Net	% Net
£20,000 or more	8.40	-	6.38
£25,000 - £49,999	7.95	-	5.96
£10,000 - £24,999	7.25	-	5.44
£5,000 - £9,999	6.93	-	5.21
£1 - £4,999	2.80	-	1.50

Rate unchanged	% Gross	% Net	% Net
£40,000 or more	9.43	9.85	7.02
£25,000 - £39,999	8.97	9.38	6.73
£10,000 - £24,999	8.28	8.60	6.21
£5,000 - £9,999	7.35	7.60	5.51
£1 - £4,999	2.00	2.02	1.50

Rate unchanged	% Gross	% Net	% Net
£20,000 or more	7.20	-	5.40
£10,000 - £19,999	6.75	-	5.06
£5,000 - £9,999	6.30	-	4.73
£500 - £4,999	5.85	-	4.39
£1 - £499	2.00	-	1.50

Rate unchanged	% Gross	% Net	% Net
£10,000 or more	8.20	-	6.20
£5,000 - £9,999	7.95	-	5.95
£1 - £4,999	7.70	-	5.70

Rate unchanged	% Gross	% Net	% Net
£10,000 or more	9.10	-	6.83
£1 - £9,999	2.00	-	1.50

Rate unchanged	% Gross	% Net	% Net
£10,000 or more	9.10	-	6.83
£1 - £9,999	2.00	-	1.50

Rate unchanged	% Gross	% Net	% Net
£25,000 or more	6.75	-	5.06
£5,000 - £24,999	5.85	-	4.39
£1 - £4,999	2.00	-	1.50

Rate unchanged	% Gross	% Net	% Net
£25,000 or more	11.00	-	8.25
£10,000 - £24,999	10.75	-	8.06
£5,000 - £9,999	8.20	-	6.15
£1 - £4,999	3.20	-	2.40

Rate unchanged	% Gross	% Net	% Net
£25,000 or more	11.00	-	8.25
£10,000 - £24,999	11.00	-	8.25
£5,000 - £9,999	8.20	-	6.15
£1 - £4,999	3.20	-	2.40

Rate unchanged	% Gross	% Net	% Net
£25,000 or more	11.00	-	8.25
£10,000 - £24,999	11.00	-	8.25
£5,000 - £9,999	8.20	-	6.15
£1 - £4,999	3.20	-	2.40

Rate unchanged	% Gross	% Net	% Net
£25,000 or more	11.00	-	8.25
£10,000 - £24,999	11.00	-	8.25
£5,000 - £9,999	8.20	-	6.15
£1 - £4,999	3.20	-	2.40

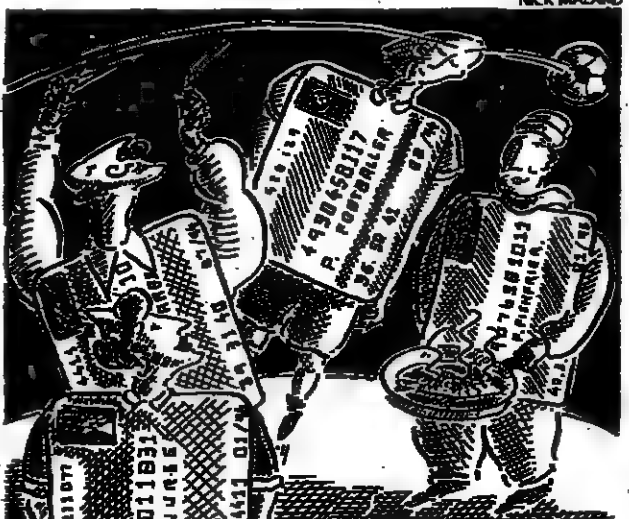
Rate unchanged	% Gross	% Net	% Net
£25,000 or more	11.00	-	8.25
£10,000 - £24,999	11.00	-	8.25
£5,000 - £9,999	8.20	-	6.15
£1 - £4,999	3.20	-	2.40

Rate unchanged	% Gross	% Net	% Net
£25,000 or more	11.00	-	8.25
£10,000 - £24,999	11.00	-	8.25
£5,000 - £9,999	8.20	-	6.15
£1 - £4,999	3.20	-	2.40

Rate unchanged	% Gross	% Net	% Net
£25,000 or more	11.00	-	8.25
£10,000 - £24,999	11.00	-	8.25
£5,000 - £9,999	8.20	-	6.15
£1 - £4,999	3.20	-	2.40

Rate unchanged	% Gross	% Net	% Net
£25,000 or more	11.00	-	8.25
£10,000 - £24,999	11.00	-	8.25
£5,000 - £9,999	8.20	-	6.15
£1 - £4,999	3.20	-	2.40

Rate unchanged	% Gross	% Net	% Net
£25,000 or more	11.00	-	8.25
£10,000 - £24,999	11.00	-	8.25
£5,000 - £9,999	8.20	-	6.15
£1 - £4,999	3.20	-	2.40



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8.50%
8.40%
8.25%
7.75%
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£10,000+
£5,000+
£2,000+

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INVESTMENT	GUARANTEED GROWTH	GROSS EQUIVALENT YIELD TO UNDERLYING INVESTMENT
£50,000+	51.06%	12.46%
£25,000+	50.37%	12.31%
£10,000+	49.67%	12.16%
£5,000+	48.64%	11.94%
£2,000+	45.24%	11.21%

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THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 15 1992

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Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright. If you have not, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Share Price
1	Rydal Bank	Banking	1.00
2	British Telecom	Telecom	1.00
3	British Airways	Airline	1.00
4	British Petroleum	Oil	1.00
5	British Gas	Utilities	1.00
6	British Steel	Steel	1.00
7	British Airways	Airline	1.00
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18	British Airways	Airline	1.00
19	British Airways	Airline	1.00
20	British Airways	Airline	1.00

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Weekly Dividend

Please make a copy of your daily stock for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £6,000 will be added to Monday's competition.

1992 High Low Company Price + - % YTD P/E

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Shares bounce back

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began August 10. Dealings end August 21. Settlement day September 1. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1992 High Low Company Price + - % YTD P/E

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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

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FOODS

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HOTELS, CATERERS

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OIL

Mansell calm as Williams team-mate sets the pace

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C: International match: Scotland v Germany.
E: under-21 championships:
Group 1: England; Belgium v Wales.
F: World Cup: Group two: Turkey v England.
G: European Championship:
Group 1: Northern Ireland. Group four:
Spain.

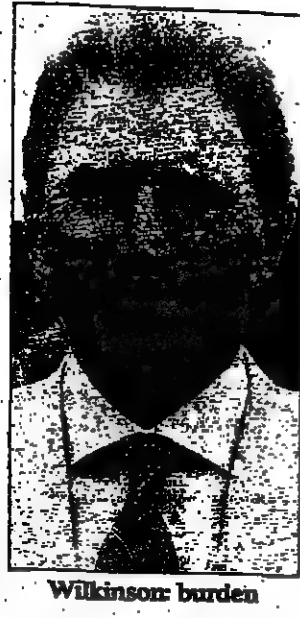
D: April
FA Cup semi-finals.
European Cup: Group 7: European group matches.
European Cup: Winners' Cup and UEFA
Cup semi-finals, first leg.
UEFA Cup: Group 9: Czech Republic and
Soviet Union. Group 21: European Cup final;
Europeans, European Cup Winners' Cup
final and UEFA Cup semi-finals, second leg.
UEFA under-21 championship: Portugal v Scotland; England v Holland;
Austria v Denmark; Czechoslovakia v Wales.

E: World Cup: Group one: Portugal v Scotland.
Group three: Republic of Ireland v Denmark; Spain v Northern Ireland.
Group four: Czechoslovakia v Wales.

UEFA Cup final, first leg.
 FA Vase final.
 FA Trophy final.
 European Cup winners' Cup final.
 FA Cup final.
 UEFA Cup final, second leg, World
 Group one, Group one: Estonia v Scotland
 World Cup, Group three: Lithuania v
 Armenia Republic of Ireland, World
 Championship, Group one: England v
 European Cup final, World Cup
 Group three: Albania v Republic of
 Ireland.
 UEFA Cup under-21 championship: Poland
 England.
 World Cup Group two: Poland v
 England.
 European League third division
 play-off final.
 Barclays League second division
 play-off final.
 Barclays League first division play-off
 final.
 UEFA
 UEFA under-21 championship, Norway
 World Cup, Group one: Scotland v
 Estonia, Group two: Norway v England.
 European League

World Cup: Group four: Faroe Islands v
Iceland; England tour of United States;
World Cup: Group three: Latvia v
Republic of Ireland.
B: World Cup: Group three: Lithuania v
Republic of Ireland.

Wilkinson a winner still seeking to make his point



Wilkinson's burden

LISTENING to a Leeds United supporter bemoaning Norman Hunter in the Elland Road foyer about a 20-year-old scarf he had mistaid on his return from Wimbledon last Saturday — "hadn't washed it since we won there in '72," he said proudly — made one wonder whether Howard Wilkinson might not still have more to offer to the club than the ghost of Revie is properly laid to rest.

Winning the championship last season, albeit in his fourth term in charge, failed to satisfy the neutrals, as Wilkinson was only too aware, asking a trifle tactically after the final game: "Can we enjoy it for two days before the acid starts flowing again?"

Given the time-honoured British tradition for shooting

down its winners, Wilkinson and his team, who it was said lacked panache, would probably have received more plaudits had they finished runners-up instead. Britain loves its runners-up. Besides, winning meant that Wilkinson was way ahead of schedule, the championship was supposed to be this season's objective, at the earliest.

Leeds supporters will expect a repeat performance at the very least, or if not, the European Cup as a consolation prize. Wilkinson, who was the manager of the year, has made a rod for his back.

"The public can be patient or sympathetic when it comes to some performers, say like Sinatra when he lost his voice. But football managers are expected to go on achieving."

Wilkinson died one exception, though. "I felt Graeme Souness was lucky last season. He was unlucky in many respects... but he was lucky in as much as it could have happened to him four years on, and people would have been nowhere near as understanding. Or, conversely, it could have happened to Kenny Dalglish if he had stayed."

One cannot help feeling, though, that Wilkinson's star, like that of his team, has yet to reach its zenith, either in terms of achievement or style. The squad, he firmly believed, was stronger with or without the addition of David Rocastle, from Arsenal for £2 million. "Batty, Dorigo,

Speed and Newson have all improved as players," he said. "Why's come on a lot. Hodge is probably better than he's been for a long time mentally and physically, and Wallace seems to have progressed after one season and a pre-season, as I thought he would."

While supporters debated whether Rocastle would succeed the finally ageing Gordon Strachan sooner rather than later in the right-sided midfield role, Wilkinson went and omitted both from his starting line-up for the Charity Shield match last Saturday, and may do so again for the opening game against Wimbledon at Elland Road today.

One who ought to feel sure of his place is Eric Cantona. The temperamental Frenchman deserves every encouragement after his impressive treble against Liverpool. The enigmatic terrible knows he has still much to do. "I would dearly love him to grace the Elland Road stage and to enhance our prospects of winning things, because he's undoubtedly one of the most gifted players — in some senses — that I've come across." Lovely touch, this observer was only too happy to add. "He's got enormous talent, and hopefully it will be a part of the English scene for a few years to come. But lots have

come and lost have failed. One of the best young players I ever saw was a lad called Petrovic. He never got a kick when he came to Arsenal."

The much-trumpeted arrival of the shiny new Premier League with all the inherent faults of the old model has taken the fizz out of Wilkinson's post-season celebrations. So much so that he returned from a coaching seminar in Italy contemplating resignation and emigration, his deadpan face for once reflecting a genuine downbeat mood. He had learned the other man's grass was indeed greener. Coaches abroad were given time to coach, to make better players, a point painfully made at the European championship finals in Sweden.

"I don't see what's changed here," Wilkinson said. "Walker's gone, Barnes is injured, and Gascoigne's gone. What else is new?" The failure of the powers that be to consult the managers in their "reconstruction" of the game has further incensed Wilkinson, a founder member of the Football Managers' Association, of which he is chairman.

"I hear that there are prominent chairmen who are vehemently opposed to any moves that might be seen to encourage the association, like in matters of finance. When you consider the PFA's position, when you consider our position, and what we have to offer, it's an absolutely preposterous stance to take because we are not seeking to be confrontational."

Premier League has brought little change

Armchair viewers gain most from bungled revolution

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

A WHOLE new ball game? The label, attached to the inaugural Premier League by BSkyB, will be genuinely appropriate only if managers and players inject a sense of adventure into the season which kicks off today at nine venues.

Ever since the idea was put forward 18 months ago, the principles behind the Premier League have been either discarded or diluted to such an extent that only armchair viewers in some 700,000 households will notice any significant difference. The proposed revolution has been confined merely to television coverage.

The Football Association, after being challenged by the League, threatened by the Professional Footballers' Association and forced to compromise by self-interested chairmen, has lost control of the supposed historic era. The administrators, in squabbling among themselves, have inconspicuously forsaken a momentous opportunity to redefine the ancient structure.

Contrary to the fundamental theme of Graham Kelly's blueprint, the schedule of the nation's best players will remain the most demanding in the world for the next three years. The quantity of fixtures continues to be given priority over the quality of the games.

Apart from the provision of two additional free weekends between internationals, nothing essentially has changed. The excitement must therefore be generated by the 22 clubs themselves and, considering the lavish rewards they will receive from television com-

panies and sponsors, they should be conscious of the duty to provide fresh entertainment.

Last Saturday's Charity Shield between Leeds United and Liverpool set an admirable example. Contrasting vividly with England's miserably negative contribution to the European championship the occasion represented a showpiece. But will they be as open and un inhibited when three points are at stake?

The pressure promises to be particularly intense among the leading clubs because the race for the first Premier League title appears to be more open than for many years. For once there is no dominant force overshadowing the field.

The anxiety will be no less profound for those at the other end of the table. Since relegation would represent a huge drop in income, the fear of failure will be felt especially keenly at Coventry City, Norwich City, Oldham Athletic and Middlesbrough.

"On the eve of the season, every manager dreams of winning the championship," Howard Wilkinson said last week. As he is in charge of Leeds, the holders, his vision will be as realistic as any but no club other than Liverpool has retained the trophy since Wolverhampton Wanderers in 1959.

In spite of strengthening a midfield which was already one of the most potent in the division, Leeds are not favoured to break the pattern. They will now be carrying the weight of expectation which for most of last season was borne by Manchester United.

Arsenal, as long as their

powerful attack is supplied with sufficient openings, and United, as long as the chances they create are taken, should lead the way. Leeds, Liverpool, Sheffield Wednesday, Aston Villa, Manchester City and Nottingham Forest will surely not be far behind.

The dark horses may be Blackburn Rovers, the team that Jack Walker built, but their expensive acquisitions are unlikely initially to be adequately cohesive. Ipswich Town, promoted as the champions of the second division, already have a firmer foundation on which to flourish.

It would be surprising if Tottenham Hotspur do not head one list. Since Ruddock, the only first division player to be sent off twice last season, has joined Cudny, van den Hauwe and Fenwick in a ruthless defence, they will probably earn the worst disciplinary record.

Caution in general are bound to increase. An instruction, long overdue, has been issued to referees to caution anyone who delays a free-kick and players will not easily resist the temptation to employ a time-wasting tactic which, shamefully, has become the accepted custom.

Back passes, specifically those kicked deliberately to the goalkeeper, have also been rightly outlawed. Since managers and players have not voluntarily ended such practices, in one sense at least they have been forced to play a whole new ball game.

□ Napoli look likely to reject the financial demands made by Diego Maradona, who has offered to return from Buenos Aires to complete his contract.

Arsenal v Norwich After Walter's managerial debut for Norwich coincides with John Jensen's in the Arsenal midfield and Mark Roberts in the Norwich defence, the first Premier League clash promises to be a tactical chess match. Jensen, a former Chelsea player, is a long-term back injury, and Walter, his understudy in goal last season, is a former Chelsea player, too. In demand, Stewart Robinson and Kevin Gallacher will be starting the season, at least, at Highfield Road.

Crystal Palace v Blackburn Geoff Thomas will wear a Palace shirt, but it could be for the last time. The midfielder is wanted by Rovers who are prepared to pay £3 million for his services. No wonder Thomas said yesterday: "Of course I'll play. I don't want to look like a two-day player. I want to look like a two-day player."

Everton v Sheffield Wednesday This season probably represents the final opportunity for Chris Waddle (Manchester United) and Peter Beardsley (Everton) to reclaim their England places and both will be

out to outpace the other. Likewise, Howard Kendall knows he needs to get things right at Goodison this year and the home manager is expected to relegate Johnston to the bench in order to give Rieke, his last spring from Rangers, a first game up front.

Ipswich v Aston Villa Dallas Austin returns to Portman Road where, as an Ipswich player, he local media and supporters dubbed him "the new Maradona". Just like Diego, Dallas's star was somewhat faded and he needs to start scoring a few goals to ensure a future at Villa Park. An expected 20,000 strong crowd at a newly all-seated Portman Road will be hoping to witness Ipswich's return to the elite with a win, but they will have to contend with individuals of the calibre of Ray Houghton, Villa's close-season recruit from Liverpool. Ipswich's task is complicated by the likely absence of the injured Liginhan and Dossel from defence and attack, but at least they can show off Gerard Williams, their £250,000 buy from Derby, in midfield.

Leeds v Wimbledon Players who score freely in the lower divisions often struggle at the highest level, so Dean Holdsworth (Wimbledon) and Peter Beardsley (Everton) to reclaim their England places and both will be

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The Sky Sports group, which kicks off its five-year exclusive coverage of the inaugural Premier League at the City Ground tomorrow, promises new standards in sports presentation. "We proved last season that we are no Mickey Mouse outfit," Vic Wakefield, the head of football, says. Left to right, back row: Richard Keys (presenter), Angela Maton (head of presentation), Wakefield, Andy Melvin (producer), Ian Darke (commentator); front row: Bob Kemp (head of production), David Hill (head of sport), Roger Moody (deputy head of sport).

The sports channel of BSkyB, which, along with the BBC, secured the FA deal with a £304 million offer last May, will broadcast 60 games a season and there will be no gimmicks for their own sake.

Innovations that have been introduced allow viewers, through the use of their handsets, to silence the commentators without losing the stadium's sound effects. But referees have declined the request to be fitted with a microphone during play in order that they might explain their decisions to the commentators.

On the ball: the Sky Sports television team takes a bow at the studios in Isleworth, West London

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CYCLING

Audacious last fling by Millar

By PETER BRYAN

MAX Sciandri, the British-born Italian who took the lead on Tuesday, yesterday won the 520-mile Kellogg's Tour of Britain by six seconds. But it was Robert Millar, the winner in 1989, who so nearly upset the outcome when he launched an audacious attack yards before the summit of Holme Moss and took flight at 55mph towards the finish in Leeds, 30 miles distant.

Millar had won the Tour three years ago in similar fashion when it ended in Cardiff and it was, therefore, surprising when Sciandri and the other favourites did not press home their counter-attacks with greater urgency.

At the start of the day's stage from Coventry, Millar was 22nd, 33 seconds in arrears of the Italian.

With the descent behind him, Millar, crouching low over the handlebars, was racing at 35mph on the comparative flat through Huddersfield and Gomersal, both packed with spectators but nothing to compare with the thousands ringing the five-mile finishing circuit — to be covered three times — in Leeds.

His lead of more than two minutes had been cut to 1min 13secs when the pack entered the circuit. The next time round, the advantage was down to 15 seconds; the 'hounds' had the scent and eight miles from the end Millar was swept up by Motorola, led by Sean Yates, defended Sciandri's 11-second overall lead.

The final lap produced a series of attacks, all negated, until Monday's stage winner, Hendrik Redant (Lotto), made his effort 200 yards to go, holding off Olaf Ludwig and Adri van der Poel. Sciandri was ninth with the same time of 4hr 54min 38sec for the 110 miles stage. It was his first stage race victory in a four-year professional career.

Today

CRICKET

British Assurance county championship

11.0, 11.00 noon

CHESHIRE: Derbyshire v Kent

HARTLEPOOL: Durham v Glamorgan

COLCHESTER: Essex v Nottingham

11.0, 11.00 noon

BOURNEMOUTH: Hampshire v Northamptonshire

11.0, 11.00 noon

BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Warwickshire

11.0, 11.00 noon

First Under-19 Test

HEADINGSLEY: England v Sri Lanka

FOOTBALL

FA Premier League

Arsenal v Norwich

Coventry v Oldham

Crystal Palace v Blackburn

Everton v Sheffield Wednesday

Ipswich v Aston Villa (all tickets)

Leeds v Wimbledon

Sheffield Utd v Manchester Utd

Southampton v Tottenham (all tickets)

Football League

First division

Brentford v Wolverhampton (all tickets)

Bristol City v Portsmouth

Charlton v Gillingham

Leicester v Luton

Newcastle v Southampton

Oxford Utd v Bristol Rovers

Peterborough v Derby (all tickets)

Swindon v Sunderland

Tranmere v Cambridge Utd

Worcester v Millwall

Second division

Bolton v Huddersfield

Bradford v Chester

Burnley v Swindon

Exeter v Rotherham

Hartlepool v Reading

Hull v Stoke

Luton Orient v Brighton

Marshall v Plymouth

Port Vale v Fulham

Preston v Bournemouth

West Bromwich v Blackpool

Wigan v Stockport

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CRICKET

British Assurance county championship

11.0, 11.00 noon

CHESHIRE: Derbyshire v Kent

HARTLEPOOL: Durham v Glamorgan

COLCHESTER: Essex v Nottingham

11.0, 11.00 noon

BOURNEMOUTH: Hampshire v Northamptonshire

11.0, 11.00 noon

BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Warwickshire

11.0, 11.00 noon

First Under-19 Test

HEADINGSLEY: England v Sri Lanka

FOOTBALL

FA Premier League

Arsenal v Norwich

Coventry v Oldham

Crystal Palace v Blackburn

Everton v Sheffield Wednesday

Ipswich v Aston Villa (all tickets)

Leeds v Wimbledon

Sheffield Utd v Manchester Utd

Southampton v Tottenham (all tickets)

Football League

First division

Brentford v Wolverhampton (all tickets)

Bristol City v Portsmouth

Charlton v Gillingham

Leicester v Luton

Newcastle v Southampton

Oxford Utd v Bristol Rovers

Peterborough v Derby (all tickets)

Swindon v Sunderland

Tranmere v Cambridge Utd

Worcester v Millwall

Second division

Bolton v Huddersfield

Bradford v Chester

Burnley v Swindon

Exeter v Rotherham

Hartlepool v Reading

Hull v Stoke

Luton Orient v Brighton

Marshall v Plymouth

Port Vale v Fulham

Preston v Bournemouth

West Bromwich v Blackpool

Wigan v Stockport

Third division

Cardiff v Walsley

Cheltenham v Walsley

Colchester v Lincoln

Crewe v Torquay

Dorchester v Bury

Gillingham v Barnet

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THE TIMES SPORT

SATURDAY AUGUST 15 1992

Threat to spirit of co-operation on Premier League's first day

QPR pull plug on BSkyB

By Clive White

ENGLISH football's brave new world looked like getting off to a bumpy start yesterday when Queen's Park Rangers announced that they would refuse to co-operate with BSkyB at the start of their multi-million-pound exclusive coverage of the Premier League.

Rangers, annoyed at having to play three games in six days, appear before the cameras on Monday in the satellite station's live match against Manchester City at Maine Road, but have said that they will not grant any interviews nor allow cameras into their dressing-room if asked.

The club tried, without success, to get the fixtures altered by the Premier League and at one stage this week Gerry Francis, the Rangers manager, was planning to pull his players out of Monday's game in protest.

"It's lunacy," Francis said. "The 'Big Five' wouldn't have stood for it in the first week of the season."

As it was, a member of the "Big Five" could only sympathise. George Graham, the Arsenal manager, said: "I think Gerry has got a very good case — but he's just wasting his energy. They will have to play."

Whatever commiserations BSkyB may have had for Rangers, they were unimpressed with their lack of co-operation at the outset of what is supposed to be an era of better understanding between football and television. Rangers were accused of shooting themselves in the foot while still being prepared to take the television money, the first £500,000 payment of which clubs receive today in what amounts to a £304 million deal over five years.

David Hill, BSkyB's head of sport, said: "I can't believe a group of professional adults could act this way. I find it



New recruit: Paul Rideout, left, is welcomed to Everton yesterday by Howard Kendall, the club manager.

remarkable. They are shooting the messenger — not talking to us is incredibly counter-productive.

"If that is the way they want it, we will just talk to Manchester City. We are not going back to them. They have said nothing about not taking the television money. They are taking the money but not talking to us. When they go down the tunnel, it's bye-bye QPR. If they want to spit out the dummy, that's their affair."

Richard Thompson, the 28-year-old chairman of Rangers, issued a statement yesterday in which he said that he held a

meeting with Francis and the players to discuss the situation and "lack of assistance" from BSkyB and the Premier League in dealing with their objections. "Following a meeting between myself, my manager and players, it has been decided no-one from Queen's Park Rangers will be prepared to co-operate or communicate with BSkyB before or after this match."

Rangers said that their players would not get back from Manchester until around 5am on Tuesday, before having to go into training later for the following evening's game against Southampton at

Loftus Road. Three days later they host Sheffield United.

It is unlikely to be the last time that a club voices its objections to the scheduling agreed by the Premier League and BSkyB, who have permission to cover 60 matches throughout the season on a Sunday and Monday.

Howard Wilkinson, the manager of Leeds United, the Football League champions, has already protested that the scheduling was unworkable and detrimental to the chances of English success in European club competitions.

Next month Leeds United have to move their fixture

against Aston Villa at Elland Road from Saturday to Sunday, three days before facing Staggart in the first round of the European Cup.

According to a poll conducted by Gallup on behalf of Carlsberg, the brewers who sponsor Liverpool, 50 per cent of supporters said that they would be less likely to attend a match if it was moved from Saturday afternoon to Monday evening.

Two-page features and Premier League guide, pages 26-27

Team news, page 29
Wilkinson's view, page 29

American early starters grab chance on greens

FROM MITCHELL PLATT
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN ST LOUIS

NICK Faldo had no illusions about the challenge confronting him here yesterday after the Americans, Jim Gallagher Jr and Russ Cochran, established the early halfway lead in the US PGA golf championship here at the Belle River Country Club.

Faldo was well aware that his task would be made all the more examining by being among the late starters. In the first round the greens deteriorated late in the day to the extent that some observers felt it was two shots harder.

Faldo, however, was in a good mood after announcing that his wife Cilla, who was taken to hospital on Thursday, had been given a clean bill of health. She is expecting their third child in March. He took off after a session on the practice range with David Leadbetter. Faldo was less than happy with his swing during a first round of 68.

Indeed, he came up short with his first approach. Faldo, however, played a lovely shot from out of the ankle-deep rough to leave himself with nothing more than a tap-in to save his par. He faced a teasing putt of four feet for his par at the second but he confidently found the sanc-

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	434	4	10	485	4
2	437	4	11	373	4
3	185	3	12	404	4
4	508	5	13	173	3
5	653	6	14	611	4
6	195	3	15	495	4
7	391	4	16	538	5
8	488	5	17	404	4
9	488	5	18	404	4

Out 5,628 38 In 5,520 35

Total yardage: 7,148 Par: 71

halfway cut following a 72 for a score of 147, five over par. David Feherty, David Gilford and Jose-Maria Olazábal appeared likely to fall victim to the guillotine.

James began by holing from 14 feet for a birdie at the 1st. He also extracted birdies from the 4th and 6th holes although they only compensated for him taking six at the 5th, where he drove into a bush, which needed two shots to extract the ball. James drove under the trees to drop another shot at the 6th and took three putts at the 9th.

His golf was more controlled on the inward half although he was disappointed to drop a shot at the 16th. "I played extremely well on the last nine holes but I didn't take all more chances on the greens," he said. "I was within six feet on the hole for birdie putts on five occasions and made only the ones at the 10th and 13th."

Feherty, seventh in the championship last year, laboured to the turn in 38 after taking six at the 5th where he drove under the trees. He made only one birdie in a second successive round of 75 for a total of 150. Gilford also came to grief at the 5th where he drove into a lake and his 74 put him on 149.

Olazábal lacked confidence on the greens. He took three putts at both the 4th and 5th holes in a ragged outward half of 39. His prospects of survival were much reduced by a five at the short 13th and he finished with a 77 for 150.

Tom Watson struck a spectator with his drive at the 4th hole. The spectator, a man aged 69, was taken to hospital where he was treated for a head abrasion and released.

EARLY SECOND-ROUND SCORES (US unless noted): 192: R. Cochran, 69; 141: P. Jacobsen, 71; 8: P. Faldo, 72, 86; 144: J. Watson, 72, 72; 145: J. Olazábal, 73, 73; 146: J. Feherty, 72, 72; 147: L. Rickard, 72; 73: K. McLaughlin, 72; 74: J. Gilford, 72; 75: 150: D. Gilford, 73; 151: N. Harewood, 77; 74: 152: L. Barlow, 74; 76: 152: M. Bevan, 81, 81.

Southampton punished

By Louise Taylor

SOUTHAMPTON yesterday received a rap on the knuckles from the Football Association, which fined them £20,000 for their poor disciplinary record last season.

The sanction is not as severe as it sounds because £15,000 of that fine is suspended and will be required only if Southampton's behaviour does not improve appreciably this season. Ian Branfoot's team has thus had to pay only

£5,000 for a season that brought it 80 bookings and five sendings-off. Twenty different players were booked, 11 of whom, an entire team, served suspensions.

Branfoot said: "This is potentially a severe punishment and I would like to think we will learn from it. But all I can do is inflict damage on the players who have transgressed in the same way that the FA have come down on us."

Among the culprits to have since departed is Neil Rudolph, now with Tottenham Hotspur. He was sent off twice. "Players responsible for 33 per cent of our offences have left the club, so that should help," Branfoot said. "I think the FA would have come down on us a lot harder had we not subjected players who committed offences to the maximum club fines permitted by the Professional Footballers' Association."

Lincoln City were fined £1,250 with £3,750 suspended, while Darlington and Exeter City were given suspended fines of £4,000 and £5,000 respectively for their poor disciplinary records. Kevin Keegan, the manager of Blackburn Rovers and Newcastle United respectively, were charged with bringing the game into disrepute yesterday. Keegan was also fined £1,000. The offences relate to alleged comments made to referees in April last season.

Terry McDermott, Keegan's assistant, was also fined £250 for comments made to Brian Coddington at Derby. An FA spokesman said: "We won't hesitate to act if there is any repeat of incidents like this."

Slater joins Celtic for reduced price

By Clive White

STUART Slater was yesterday reunited with Liam Brady when the Celtic manager paid West Ham United a club record fee of £1.5 million, £500,000 less than his offer that was rejected last season.

Brady and Slater were players together at Upton Park during which time the Irishman was Slater's agent. The quicksilver forward failed to score last season but Brady's belief in him is unshaken. Celtic also signed Rudi Vata, an Albanian, from Dinamo Tirana for £200,000. The proposed transfer of Kevin Gallacher from Coventry City to Chelsea was called off by the midlands club who declined to appear for a meeting yesterday to discuss the sale when details of the transfer were leaked to a daily newspaper.

Coventry were also upset by the figure for which the player was supposed to be sold. "It's outrageous," Bobby Gould, the Coventry manager, said. "The story said Chelsea would be signing Kevin for £2.1 million and that is totally untrue. I have told my chairman I consider £2.5 million to be a fair and reasonable offer

and one worth considering. But that does not mean Kevin would be leaving — the last word is his."

The deal with Chelsea which would have taken the London club's close-season purchases to £5.5 million may not, however, be dead. Robbins said: "If they want to talk to us they should do it through the proper channels." Not that Gallacher could have played for Chelsea or Coventry, for that matter, today because he has an Achilles tendon injury.

Other sales, however, have progressed smoothly. Mark Robbins completed an £800,000 transfer to Norwich City. Paul Rideout joined Everton from Rangers for £500,000 and Wayne Burnett went from Leyton Orient to Blackburn Rovers in a deal which could eventually be worth £350,000 — a small change by the standards of the Lancashire club, who almost inevitably are believed to have joined the chase for Terry Phelan just when the Wimbledon left back seemed destined to move to Manchester City. The asking price for City of £2 million has risen to £2.2 million for Rovers.

Krabbe's guilt confirmed

By Our Sports Staff

Colopae: Katrin Krabbe, the double world sprint champion, and her teammate, Grit Breuer, can expect four-year bans from athletics competition after their positive tests for a banned drug were confirmed yesterday.

That would almost certainly end their careers — the Olympic Games of 1996 start in Atlanta, Georgia, on July 20, less than four years away. Rüdiger Nickel, an official of the German athletics federation (DLV), said the second urine sample supplied by Krabbe and Breuer during random tests in training last month had tested positive for the stimulant and anabolic agent, clenbuterol.

"That confirms that all the tests given by the athletes contained clenbuterol," Nickel said after the second tests were analysed yesterday afternoon at the drug-testing laboratory here, which is approved by the International Olympic Committee. Manfred Donike, an expert on drugs, carried out the tests.

The urine of athletes being tested is always separated into two containers. The first tests on Krabbe and Breuer earlier this month revealed traces of the forbidden substance. But the result needed to be confirmed by a positive second test before any action could be taken against the athletes.

Krabbe and Breuer admit taking clenbuterol. Krabbe said she was told by her doctor that it was not on the banned list. Thomas Springstein, a coach at the Krabbe's Neubrandenburg club, was dismissed four days ago for supplying the clenbuterol. He admitted buying it on the black market and the club said he had "irresponsibly betrayed his duty as a trainer".

DLV officials warned beforehand that Krabbe, the 100 and 200 metres champion at last year's world championships, and Breuer, the world 400 metres silver medal winner, would be suspended immediately from competition if the tests were positive.

But the DLV's board must meet to impose the minimum penalty of a four-year ban for a first drug offence on the former East Germans who also have a right to plead their case. This is likely to take place next month. The Germans must then report the case and the punishment to the International Amateur Athletic Federation for the ban to be imposed internationally.

Krabbe and Breuer did not go to the Barcelona Olympics because of the pressure of the earlier drugs scandal, which also included Silke Möller.

Clenbuterol is a muscle-building chemical that has been linked in the past with scandals over its use to improve weight. It is licensed in some countries to treat asthma and has been recommended in an underground drugs users' handbook as a way to boost performance without getting caught.

A handful of competitors, including two British weightlifters, were expelled from the Barcelona Games after they tested positive for the drug.

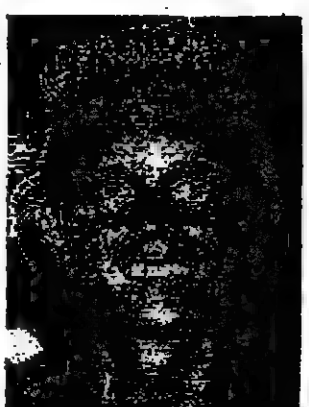
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Krabbe: end is high

1500 66 1500

WEEKEND TIMES

SATURDAY AUGUST 15 1992



Preserves on parade: as rural preoccupations change, so does the Women's Institute. But if environmental action now replaces jam and Jerusalem on the agenda, home-made produce remains an enduring feature of country shows

The village show must go on

Animals are being groomed, cakes iced and tractors polished for the big day. It's show-time across the country and, John Young reports, despite changes in rural life, this simple pleasure remains ever popular

On a blazing Saturday afternoon the flags on top of the tents flutter brightly against the blue of skies. Families in shirt-sleeves and summer dresses mill around the show ring and among the stalls selling everything from handicrafts to hot-dogs. Small children tug at their parents' hands, demanding to see the donkeys and the ponies.

Everywhere there are trees, and beyond them the green sweep of the Downs. This may be commuter-belt Surrey, the countryside may not be what it was, or so we are told; and more space nowadays has to be allotted for visitors' cars. But otherwise it could be a scene from any time in the past 45 years.

Inside the marquee run by the Women's Institute the action begins early. The WI is one of the enduring features of country life, but even it changes with the times. This year, for example, the theme is "Into Europe", which means that the entrants have to submit dishes characteristic of another European Community country.

"It makes it all the more fun, but it also makes the judging that much more difficult," Daphne Nunneley, the vice-chairman of the Surrey Federation of Women's Institutes, says. To avoid accusations of bias — heaven forbid — the judges are provided by a different county federation, in this case neighbouring Sussex.

Cranleigh claims to be the largest village in the south of England, and fittingly stages what must be one of the biggest village shows in the country. Purists might object that it has become almost too big to qualify, and that it is more of a mini-agricultural show. But unlike the regional and county shows that employ their own staff, the Cranleigh event depends entirely on volunteers.

The single exception is Denise Cook, the secretary, who works all year to ensure the success of this one day. "The show seems to get bigger and bigger all the time, and it is becoming more and more difficult to manage because of the problems of getting enough volunteers," she says. "I spend a lot of my time making sure that everyone who has helped in the past is willing to go on doing so; the stewards and judges, for example. You've got to be very careful with judges," she adds, slightly mysteriously.

Jack Nash, a retired farmer, has been involved with the show since it began in 1947. "It started when a few local farmers got together and said we should have our own show. The first was really no more than a ploughing match in the grounds of Knowle Park, on the edge of the

village. The cattle and the sheep and the pigs came later."

Over the years, more and more people became involved in an ever wider range of activities. The show also became increasingly profitable, so much so that the committee was able to purchase its own ground, which is used at other times for events such as horse shows, dog shows and car and caravan rallies. But the important thing, Mr Nash says, is that everything is done voluntarily. "We could never afford to pay our own staff."

In an increasingly urbanised society will the local commitment continue? Mr Nash is cautiously optimistic. "The big difference from the early days is that people used to come to see the flower and

"Cranleigh has been taken over by yuppies," he complains. "People move out of London and the first thing they do is acquire a couple of horses. They haven't got any background in the country and, provided they can buy hay from a local farm, they have no other interest in agriculture or the countryside."

"They dress in the way they imagine country people do. They buy four-wheel-drive vehicles, but all they do is career round the hills at weekends."

Mrs Cook agrees that the gap in understanding between those who earn their living from the countryside and those who simply live there is becoming wider. "My grandparents on both sides were farmers," she says, "but my own children just don't want to know."

written instructions that all food must be in the tent by 7.30am, ready for judging to begin at 7.45.

"It's a friendly competition, but that doesn't mean it's not highly competitive," Mrs Nunneley says. "Our members are very keen to win, and they take the results very seriously."

By the time the judging ends at 10am there are already long queues outside the marquee, waiting for admittance. A couple of hours later the tables piled high with home-grown flowers, fruit and vegetables have been all but demolished by eager purchasers. Only a few onions and carrots remain, together with a handful of boxes of free-range eggs and jars of honey.

Elsewhere in the marquee the floral displays and a table laden

"Also people don't grow their own fruit and vegetables the way they used to. It's become so easy to buy everything from the supermarkets and farm shops, or to pick-your-own."

Mrs Nunneley, who has served on the federation for the past 16 years, says that standards have improved enormously, both in the quality of produce and the way it is displayed. They have been given a further boost by the government's new EC-inspired food hygiene regulations. Inspectors now make regular visits to village shows, and many institute members have taken exams to obtain certificates of competence in food health.

At the other end of the showground the farm and food tent appears to have dropped horticulture in favour of "value-added" products in the cause of agricultural "diversification". There are plates of delicious oysters at £2.50 a half dozen — who in 1950 would have expected to be able to buy oysters at a village show? — along with tables displaying other shellfish, English wines, cider, farmhouse cheeses and, perhaps more in keeping with tradition, home-made fudge.

Outside the sun beats down on the stalls, the beer tent, the fish and chips and the hamburgers. The Cossack riders in the ring, proud and magical horsemen who have made the long journey not from the Urals but from distant Staffordshire, are greeted with warm applause, and are followed by the rumble of elderly tractor engines as a procession of vintage Fords and Ferraris joins the parade.

A pair of dray horses pulls a wagon-load of laughing visitors close to where a fashion display is in progress. "An absolutely fabulous sequined outfit," the compere intones, competing with an announcement that the donkey show is about to begin. Small children leap and slither in and out of the inevitable bouncy castle. Not far away a stand is devoted to the esoteric task of making Sussex trugs; next door is the Small Shepherd's Club, not somewhere for children to adopt lambs but an advice centre for people contemplating the good life. "Thinking about keeping a few sheep?" its poster enquires. Nothing about French farmers and lamb wars.

It may not be Barcelona or Michael Jackson, but the public

seems to love it. Peter and Elizabeth Burse, from Rudgwick, four miles down the road, are first-time visitors. "The main reason we came was because of the children, to give them a chance to see the animals. Things are not like they used to be. Country people don't mix in the way they used to, and this gives us the chance to get together and feel we are part of it all."

Glyn and Carol Roberts, with their three children, are regular visitors. "This year we came mainly to see the rabbits, because we are thinking of breeding them," Mrs Roberts says. To a suggestion that farmers might not take kindly to the idea, as the wild rabbit population is once again emerging as a serious threat to crops, Mrs Roberts simply smiles. Amanda, their nine-

year-old daughter, observes that she is more interested in horses.

Are the Roberts family, who live in Cranleigh, typical local people? "I think we are," Mr Roberts says. "We have always been very interested and very keen on the show. To say that the villagers are losing interest in events like this is nonsense."

In her office, in a corner of the members' marquee, Mrs Cook seems delighted by the size of the crowds. In recent years attendances have fallen from a peak of nearly 14,000 to about 10,000, but this year she thinks they may have surpassed the record. Perhaps recession, and the lack of money for expensive holidays, have rekindled awareness of the simple pleasures of strolling or sitting in the sunshine, enjoying very English activities in an idyllic English setting. If Cranleigh is anything to go by, the village show is emphatically alive and well.



Rise and be judged: competition in the cakes marquee is friendly, but results are taken "very seriously"

fruit displays, the sheep and the cattle, and feel that they were closely involved as part of the community.

"Now we get more and more visitors coming from the towns, from Guildford, Dorking and Horsham, and they're not really interested in that sort of thing. They want more in the way of entertainment. And, of course, it has become much more commercial than it used to be. This is now one of the big days of the year for local car dealers."

Alan Bridger, the show chairman, is a dairy manager who has worked on a nearby estate for the past 40 years. "The difference between then and now is that people coming here used to know more what it was all about. Quite likely their grandparents had been in agriculture. But most people today have lost touch with the land."

"Thirty years ago there were 50 or 60 dairy farms in the district," Mr Bridger adds. "Now there are probably not that many in the whole county. I sometimes wonder why so many people come to shows like this. They pay quite a lot of money to get in and wander around looking totally bored."


"It's not all gloom and doom. We still have a lot of supporters, and some farms now 'adopt' village schools. You could say that education is one of the functions of village shows, to create some sort of relationship between town and country. We have to try to educate people, and to some extent I think we are succeeding."

For Cranleigh WI members this is the big day of the year, and in many cases the planning and research began months ago. Competitors are issued with strict type-

with cakes and jams remain on display, alongside stalls selling books and clothes. But the earlier flood of visitors has slowed to a trickle. Margaret Baverstock, the local WI treasurer, estimates that the day's takings are between £800 and £900. Is that good? "Not bad. Yes, quite good, I'd say."

Mrs Nunneley, chairman of the WI Cranleigh show committee, insists that villagers are highly involved in the proceedings, and that they are very much a part of local life. But she admits that the new generation of commuters shows less interest in community activities than its predecessors.

"The WI has always had a big marquee here," she says, "but horticulture and flower displays have gradually moved away over the years, and nowadays growers have their own specialist shows."



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GARDENING, PAGE 4




An old rose by any other name would smell much sweeter than most of the modern ones, says **Francesca Greenoak**

PASSPORT TO FRANCE, PAGES 6, 8



Win a weekend for two in Gascony's Armagnac country, and explore the best of Alsace with this week's regional guide

FOOD AND DRINK, PAGE 6



Who can't wait to get out of frocks and into the kitchen to cook a simple fish dish? **Bruce Oldfield** entertains at home

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Indignance Forever Paul Avril Chorus from Il Trovatore

Dead from The Puritimers Angel Duverno

The Great Gate of Kiev from Pictures of an Exhibition

Commencement March No. 1 Verdi Grand March from Aida

and to the Hall of the Mountains King from Peer Gynt

from Cavalleria Rusticana J. Strauss II Blue Danube Waltz

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Stay tuned as we join our harvest hero creating a scene

I HAVE been following the saga of the beleaguered BBC and its attempts to salvage *Eldorado*; and I have to say that I have every sympathy. I am in the middle of launching my own annual soap opera, a tragicomic saga of one man's attempts to come to terms with a devious item of aged farm machinery. And I'm not getting any applause either. Yes, it is harvest time: the dreaded binder has been dragged from the dark recesses of the barn. Episode one: With his soul overflowing with optimism, our ever-aging hero decides that he will approach the binder this year in a state of total relaxation. He will not repeat last year's errors of shouting at it and kicking it. Rather, he will calmly tend it and caress it. His placidity, he hopes, will be repaid.

Regular readers of this column will by now have amassed sufficient knowledge of antique farm

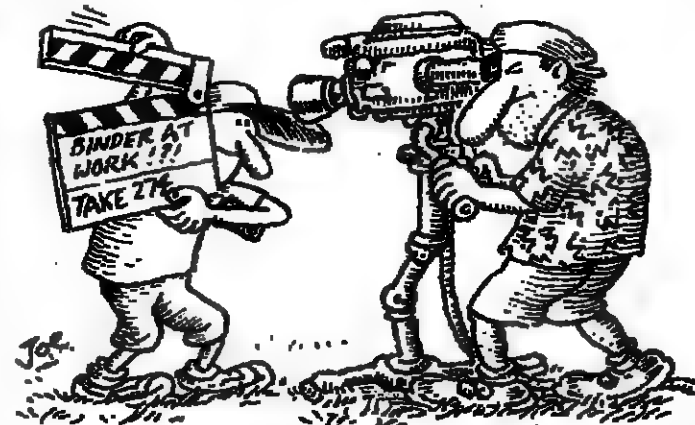
FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

machinery to qualify for a doctorate in the subject, but in case any of you are unfamiliar with a binder I can best describe it as a device which cuts the standing corn, wraps it into bundles, throws a length of string around them, knots it and throws the parcel on to the ground. These bundles are called sheaves and make grown men go misty-eyed with nostalgia at harvest festivals. But the mechanical process which produces them can descend into chaos. Unusually the viewer becomes aware of this lurking menace.

Having established the main characters, i.e. myself and the binder, we introduce the juvenile lead, a young lad who drives the tractor. I know we usually do things

with horses round here but the binder is a heavy bit of gear and we do not have sufficient horses to haul it. In the opening scenes (not to be shown before 9pm), he stands by as I caress the machine with oil, pack her nipples with grease, tighten her belts on her canvases and generally show all the signs of a man if not exactly in love, at least expecting some fulfillment. And patting his oats, you might say.

Then out to a more sombre scene with threatening music as I look with horror at the corn. Instead of standing high and proud like oats should, mine has been dashed to the ground by high winds and torrential rain. Instead of a forest, I have a carpet. It is the nightmare scenario, for although the knife will



cut the stalks, the corn is unable to fall into the jaws of the machine. Cue commercial break.

Part two starts with our hero losing his nerve, thinking he will ring a man with a nice, shiny

combine-harvester and retire to a hammock in the garden while modern machinery works its magic. But his principles surface, and with grim determination he decides to go on. He steers the

binder at the corn and gives the signal for the young driver to give it all he's got. In triumph they progress all of three feet before there is a mighty jam-up, the poor machine bursting at the seams with tangled stalks. But they press on. When wooden parts of the machine shatter, they stop and, with increasingly violent blows, carve new ones from nearby pieces of wreckage. The conveying canvases stretch under the load and are savagely tightened. Nothing will stop these men. It is epic. It reminds one of a Norse saga.

Then the final tragic scene. In an absent-minded moment, they drive the whole paraphernalia into a tree. An overhanging branch shatters a vital cog into two useless halves and effectively writes out the binder in episode one. The harvest is doomed.

Are you on the edge of your seat yet? If not, you soon will be, for I

rang my ever-useful neighbour, Farmer White, to crave his advice. Here the plot thickens: for he knows an engineer of the old school, ideal to carry out such a repair. But he is a retired man and will only work for a chosen few. Will he come or won't he? Will the corn go to waste as the broken binder sits, forlorn, in the corner of the field? Cue titles, over a close-up of throbbing veins in my temple.

There you are. Surely a whole nation would be gripped by such a saga. I suggest the poor devil who have been detailed off to save *Eldorado* should come here for a couple of weeks to find out what real drama is all about. I can promise you that at this stage in the farming year I would be only too happy to swap places with them. Sitting in a folding chair with a chilled beer, shouting, "Sooper, darling, just one more time, luvvy" has got real appeal.

Gardens to visit

Harrogate: Harrow Carr Botanic Gardens. Large and interesting display garden of the Northern Horticultural Society, with emphasis on cool-climate plants and vegetables. National Collection of hypericums and some ferns. Cray Lane, Harrogate, North Yorkshire (1.5m from Harrogate city centre on B6163 Oley Road). Plant sales. £3, child (under 16) free. Open daily 9am-7.30pm or dusk if earlier (0433 565413).

Gloucestershire: Sunningdale. Garden with pond, greenhouses and lovely views and a wide variety of unusual plants, including National Collection of phloxes. Grange Court, 5m W of Gloucester, 2m NE of Westbury-on-Trym. Turn off A45 at Hunt Hill near Chaxhill. Plant sales. £1, child 50p. Tomorrow, 2-5pm (0452 760268).

Drumskirk, by Banbury, Scotland: Drum Castle, walled garden of historic roses representing 17th-20th centuries. Drum Castle, 10m W of Aberdeen and 5m E of Banbury on the A93. £1, child and OAPs. 50p. Admission to house, £3. Tomorrow, 2-5pm.

Roses are heaven-scent

Francesca Greenoak compares old and new, and finds that fragrance improves with age

My Anna Pavlova rose flowered for the first time earlier this month. It has taken two years because the plant is not strong, but the bluish pink, full-petalled, slightly frilled bloom was so astonishingly beautiful and fragrant that it was worth the wait.

I do not much like the typical, one-key scent of hybrid tea roses but Anna Pavlova, which comes (of unknown parentage) from Peter Beales's famous rose nursery, has a whole orchestra of scent. English is deficient in language to describe such complexities of scent, but a friend of Mr Beales got close with "a picnic of fresh fruit salad with Turkish delight, served under a flowering May tree".

Scent for me is one of the most important attributes of the rose, a feeling shared by

GARDENING

many gardeners who are dismayed at the absence of fragrance in so many brightly coloured modern roses. It was heartening to see crowds in the rose tent at last month's Hampton Court Palace show, evaluating a selection of individual rose varieties supplied by Harkness to show that some modern roses do smell good.

Gossiping and eavesdropping, I was struck by the concurrence of opinion. Most of the people I spoke to placed the coral-coloured hybrid tea Fragrant Cloud at the head of their preferences, and it was the outright favourite over the five days. It was also my choice, but I have to say I was not strongly impressed by the line-up, preferring myself the muskiness and complicated

undertones of the best of the old roses.

Perhaps under the stress of thousands of people deeply inhaling their scent, the strength of fragrance diminished over the day. It is true that cut roses do not continue smelling as powerfully, or as long, as those left on the bush. I have noticed that even a richly scented rose, such as the rugosa *Blanche Double de Coubert*, starts smelling rather acid and peppery towards evening in a stuffy marquee.

Modern roses are bred to flower more or less continuously throughout the summer season and hold a monopoly of the brighter colours, while old roses in general have a shorter season and are usually to be found in pinks, purples and whites, with the yellow confined to species roses.



Nose for a good rose: but many gardeners are dismayed by the lack of fragrance in brightly coloured modern roses

In most gardens there is room for several different kinds. I love the Ayrshire rose (*Rosa arvensis*) for the simplicity of its white, single flowers and evanescent, honeyed scent. I grow it, and the pink-flowered species *sweetbrier*, with its sexy, musky-scented

foliage, in my hedges. I could not manage without the fragrant *Madame Alfred Carrière* climbing my back wall, although the flower is floppy and does not last in water. The *Bourbon rose Souvenir de la Malmaison* is a continuous flowering old rose

of great beauty and stupendous fragrance, though the flowers are spoilt by wet weather.

The pink climbing *Bourbon Kathleen Harrop* is also very fragrant (and thornless), and continuous-flowering.

From other roses bred this

century, I would select the popular small climber, the pale pink *New Dawn*, the shrub hybrid *musky Buff Beauty*, and the *Francis E. Lester* (though it is not repeat-flowering) to cover a pergola in high summer with its delectable white flowers edged in pink.

HOME & GARDEN

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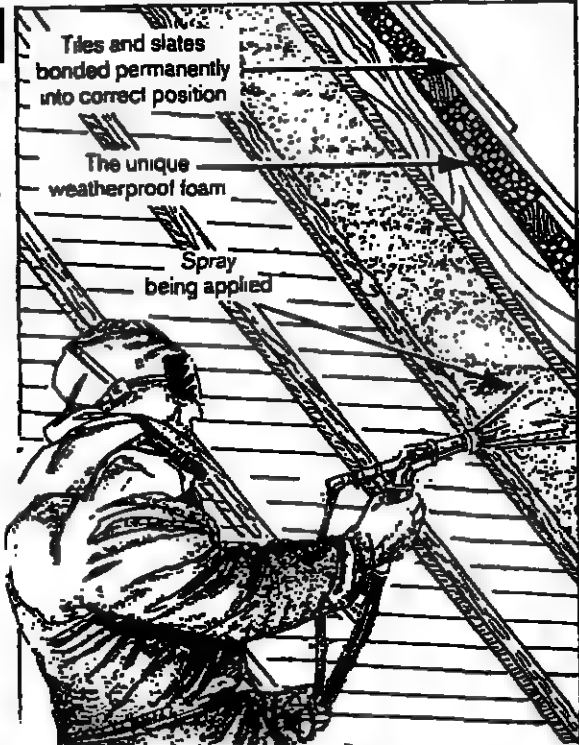
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BEST BUYS

COLCHICUM and autumn crocus bulbs will be coming on sale this month, and both should be planted at the earliest opportunity. The most common autumn crocus, *Crocus speciosus*, with long-petalled flowers which come before the narrow leaves, comes in shades of pink, lilac, purple and white. Colchicums have larger flowers: most readily available are the varieties of *Colchicum autumnale*, including white, pink and water-lily forms.



Colchicums: water-lily form

WEEKEND PICKS

- Collect the seed from foxgloves, columbines, peonies and poppies: clean and store it in a cool, dry place.
- Continue dead-heading faded flowers to encourage further blooming.
- Plant *Leucojum aestivum* and *L. vernum* (snowflake) bulbs in moist, semi-shaded soil.
- Check that chrysanthemum and aster stakes are in place and new growth secured.

Events

- Austin Morris 1100 rally: Thirtieth anniversary car club rally plus archery, and spinning and weaving. Hutton House, Hutton, Warwickshire (0926 843411). Tomorrow, 10am-2.20, child £1.20.
- Hawthorn agricultural show: Full livestock competition, carriage driving, hound trials, craft and trade stands. Hawthorn Hall Farm, Hawthorn, Cumbria (0966 6609). Tue, 9.30am-2.20, 50p.
- Guided Walk to Goosey Foot: Tarn: Leisurely walk: bring boots. Hawthorn Information Centre, main car park (05394 36525).
- Tomorrow, 10.30am. Free.
- Huddersfield flowers: 51st annual flower, handicraft and vegetable show. Fence competition, plus a circus and live music. Greenhead Park, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. Today, 10am-7pm. £2.
- Suffolk landrail rally: Vintage vehicle and aircraft display, stalls, side-show. Ipswich Airport, Nazeby Road, Ipswich, Suffolk (0473 864544). Tomorrow, 10am-4pm. £5 per car, pedestrians £2.
- English national sheepdog trials: Premiere sheepdog event with competitions from all over the country. The Showground, Kirby Lonsdale, Cumbria (0488 71603). Today, 8am-£2.
- Beginners fly fishing: An introduction to the fine art of fly fishing with practical demonstrations. Whitwell Fishing Lodge, Rutland Water, Oakham, nr Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire (0780 86770). Today, 9.30am. £19.50.
- Poole UK show: Display of native ponies plus full country fair with craft and trade stands. East of England Showground, Abington, Peterborough, Cambs (0733 234451). Today and tomorrow, 8am-5.50p, £2.
- Shrewsbury flower show: Featuring floral displays, show jumping, fireworks display and music from the Coldstream Guards. The Quarry, Town Centre Shrewsbury, Shropshire (0743 364051). Today, 10am-5.7p, 50p-£5.50.
- Southport flower show: One of the county's top flower and horticultural shows, plus entertainment for all the family, including fireworks on Aug 21. Victoria Park, Southport, Merseyside (0704 533133 ext 2308). Thur to Aug 22, 10am-8pm, 10-16-50, 16-25-60, 25-50-60.

A very blessed monk

Feather report

My friend Jeremy Sorensen was recently awarded the British Empire Medal. This was a mistake. Anything less than a peerage grossly undervalues the man. Lord Sorensen of Minsmere: that has a certain ring to it.

Jeremy - I cannot write of him as "Sorensen", still less as "Minsmere" - was warden of Minsmere bird reserve in Suffolk for 18 years.

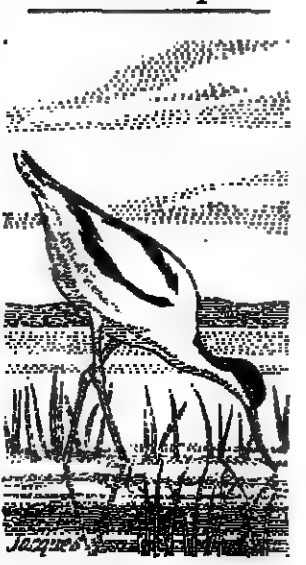
Minsmere is an important place in my personal mythology, as faithful readers of this space will know. This has been the case for years but it became doubly true after I spent a year researching a book on a year in the life of Minsmere bird reserve. I worked alongside Jeremy throughout the project without him, and without him, my own view of birds - nature - life - would be very different.

"Fabulous bird," Jeremy would remark, as we partook of the Slimmers' Lunch (chip butty and a pint of Murphy's at the Eel's Foot). Generally, the bird would be a house sparrow foraging at our feet for chips. But sometimes, it would be one of Minsmere's famous avocets.

Avocets seemed literally fabulous creatures to me as boy: beasts of myth on which I would never actually gaze. The avocet was one of the great early stories of conservation: a bird that had gone extinct in Britain was now breeding again in darkest Suffolk.

Since then, they have thrived. When I first went to Minsmere and looked across the famous saline lagoon, the scrape, and saw getting on for 100 avocets pacing about, scything the waters with their absurd upturned bills, it was as if I were looking at a field of unicorns: fabulous.

Jeremy went to Minsmere via the wallpaper trade. He



An avocet at Minsmere

managed a string of 24 shops, but then threw aside sane and sensible career plans and went into conservation.

Minsmere was his crowning achievement, his life's work. He took on Minsmere as a going concern, a place already teeming with birds, and made it better. At Minsmere, 327 species have been recorded, and far more importantly, 98 species have bred. Jeremy made the place better for birds and he made it infinitely better for visitors. Thousands of them arrive at Minsmere every year: they can see fabulous avocets 50 yards from the car park.

I had expected Jeremy to be some hawk-eyed Scandinavian: a hawk-eyed birdwatcher. Instead, I found a man with a weakness for dreadful jokes, given to chuckling like a jolly friar in a story: no doubt a Franciscan friar, because naturally he talks to the birds ("ullo, mate"). He seemed already to have a tonsure, so I nicknamed him the Monk of

Minsmere, and I was wiser than I knew.

It was, above all, what I might call Jeremy's affinity for habitat that impressed me. The relationship of bird to landscape is the crucial part of avian conservation. Jeremy showed me why, of two ponds the same size, one will attract more breeding birds than the other: why this woodland side will bring in nightjars and this woodland glade woodpeckers.

It was in woods that I saw Jeremy at his best: for you rarely see birds in a wood. You hear them. Jeremy "can tell birds from the intake of breath before they start to sing", said one writer. It was Jeremy who unlocked the secrets of birdsong for me: I have had joy of that gift every day of my life since then.

The Monk of Minsmere took early retirement last year, and went on to work full-time for the Jockey's Club. This was a startling move to many, and one much regretted by many more. But a person must seek his own destiny, and I cannot find it in my heart to go against any decision he makes. He has given me a book and a pair of ears: anything he does is all right by me.

And Minsmere remains. It is now in the hands of Geoff Welch, who is already taking important steps to improve this splendid place still further. The watch-tower of conservation is in good hands.

SIMON BARNES

- Flying in the Face of Nature: A year in Minsmere Bird Reserve, by Simon Barnes, is already taking Pelham Books, price £14.99.
- What's about Birds: - prime time for searching. Any on-shore wind could bring skuas, shearwaters and razors. Twitches - greater sand plover at East Tilbury, Essex; long-billed dowitcher at Pitzford Reservoir, Northamptonshire. Details on Birdline, 0898 700222.

0434 661550

CLASSICAL RECORDS

Living art of lieder writing



Brigitte Fassbaender: she enjoys a challenge

LIEDER is alive and well and still being written. The 65-year-old Munich-born composer, Wilhelm Killmayer, has just completed three song cycles of late Hölderlin poems (EMI CDC 7 54431 2) which are given performances by Christoph Pregardien and Siegfried Mauser as clear and direct in their appeal as the music itself.

These late poems are as little anthologised, as little known as Killmayer's own music is here. Both are deceptively guileless: Killmayer enhances the acoustic rather than the semantic functioning of Hölderlin's verse not by distorting or undercutting, but by associating with it. Melodies — and there are plenty of them — follow instinctively the roll and rise of the verse's inflection, while harmony points and surprises in the minimal yet winsomely crafted accompaniments.

As the three cycles move from almost *faux-naïf* settings about the seasons, through poems written for specific occasions, to the utopian visions of the future, the wordsetting becomes ever more bleak and oblique.

The high writing for the tenor voice, its momentary melismas, and the luminosity of the piano writing in the first cycle recalls the sensibility of Britten (and also Britten's own performances, with Pears, of Schubert). As words drop into long pools of silence, "... Haus ... Wiedersehen ... Sonne der Heimat ..." is Germany's own post-Romantic inheritance which makes itself felt.

Yet it is always hard to pin Killmayer down. His writing is determinedly non-serious, non-Expressionist. "To me, the music of the future will not be complex, but transparent like air," wrote Killmayer. There is plenty here, in this two-disc set, with which to fill the lungs.

THERE is rather less, though, on Brigitte Fassbaender's latest enticing recording of *Lieds* (Decca 430 512-2): in fact, its only drawback is its shortfall. With songs and singing like this, less than 60 minutes is simply not enough.

Fassbaender has spoken of enjoying the challenge of the almost operatic mode of expression which is required to match the virtuosity of the piano writing. She always excels in recreating music which pushes to the expressive extreme of its own language and, with Jean-Yves Thibaudet's accompanying, this recital, framed by the "Liebestraum" and "Die drei Zigeuner", is no exception.

Most revealing, and most enjoyable though, are the later, sparer songs, many of which are seldom given an airing in recitals. The six short lines of "Und wir dachten der Finten" ("And we remembered the dead"), for instance, glare like a Munch scream, and the fragrant minimalism of "Blume und Duft" and of "Einst" look forward to the distilled imagery of Hugo Wolf.

HILARY FINCH

Spoken like a woman

What, I asked myself again and again while reading Victor Erofeyev's *Russian Beauty*, will the author credited with restoring the erotic voice to Russian literature be like in the flesh? Blushing at the intimate stream of consciousness in which he indulges through his lascivious courtesan heroine, the question of how a mere male could imagine and convey half of the experiences, dreams, doubts and alienations he describes in his first novel plagued me. Was he one of those disturbing, frankly rather creepy types, who try to mine the souls of women they meet in order to play a sophisticated literary game with sensibilities different to their own?

I was relieved to find this expert on the internal feminine world has brown eyes twinkling with devilment rather than debauchery, is happily married and just "blessed with a good ear for the way women talk: once you have that voice in your mind, imagination does the rest."

He has written a remarkable book and he knows it. "It must be good, because everyone in Russia hates it, which is always a sign of progress," he says. Erofeyev is a man who jumps in with both feet, he loves a good row and managed the dubious feat of being thrown out of the Writers' Union twice in one decade. At a dinner for Ronald Reagan given by Gorbachev in 1988, he was seated next to Yigol Ligachov, the notorious hardliner and, in what he insists was a momentary lapse rather than a calculated jibe, asked him whether he wouldn't prefer to be back in Siberia than in government in Moscow. "I only meant that Siberia is much prettier," he recalls, and you can almost believe him.

His reputation as *enfant terrible* aside, Erofeyev is one of the best writers to emerge from the cupboard of talent jammed firmly shut until Gorbachev's cultural liberalisation. Even these days he remains something of an outsider. *Russian Beauty* may rail at the corruption of the communists, but it is equally biting at the expense of the sanctimonious dissidents and of their enclosed world.

In an intellectual climate of feverish

Anne McElvoy meets Victor Erofeyev, the author credited with restoring the erotic voice to Russian literature

restoration, he preserves a distance from the great writers of the 19th century. "They are like my grandparents," he says. "I admire them and love them and I want to emulate them but that does not mean that I want to drink the same beer or eat the same soup as them. They traded in a kind of hyper-moralism which I find too pressing for our times. In the new, free Russia it is important to create anew: to have reference to old traditions while rupturing them a little too."

His heroine Irina is a symbol of the Sovietised Russia he has known, bedded down into a regime alien to her nature and even prostituting her own desires by accepting its rules, but ultimately possessed of moral dimensions and grandeur of spirit which exceed the limitations of the world around her.

His own background is far from typical for a radical writer. Erofeyev *père* was Stalin's French interpreter and personal assistant to his foreign minister Molotov. "I grew up in a world of thick carpets and dachas, housekeepers and drivers. It was only as a teenager that I saw what Soviet life was really about and the crass contrast with my own experience was a great creative spur to me."

As a student in the Seventies, he hated the pall of orthodoxy which had been cast over Soviet writing and decided, as he puts it, "to make my own little bomb to create some light". The explosive device was a Samizdat magazine of new writing entitled *Metropol* and published in an edition of 12 in 1979. It was ill-received by the KGB who promptly arrested him

and threatened him with prison if he did not sign a document refuting the views expressed in the collection. When he refused, his father, by now an ambassador in Vienna, was recalled to Moscow. "It was a terrifying but a liberating moment," says Erofeyev. "For all of his training and acceptance of Stalin's ways, something snapped in my father that day and he stood by me."

The punishment was a Kafkaesque job in the foreign ministry where the former ambassador and confidant of Stalin was obliged to sit at a desk every day for four years without once receiving a piece of official mail or a telephone call. He simply sat there reading *Pravda* all day — perhaps the most sophisticated punishment of all. Victor and his wife were kept under surveillance, his publications were limited to critiques of other writers' work and plays written under pseudonyms.

He describes the arrival of Gorbachev as "like a miracle" and believes that, in the heat of the immediate post-communist period, we are apt to be too hard on the last Soviet leader. "He was a very appealing character to me because he had both a political and a metaphysical dimension. As a politician he was a product of his system and of course, he made mistakes in the reform process, but even his mistakes were guided by fate in that, one after another, they hastened the fall of communism in a peaceful way."

He is sanguine about the future of his country. He believes Boris Yeltsin to be a burly, robust defender of basic freedoms and hopes the rest will follow in time, albeit in a haphazard, Russian way. "The most important thing is that we have opened the windows of our stuffy country and that we can breathe normally again," he says. "It is unrealistic to expect 70 years of dictatorship to be followed by perfect democracy. I can buy a hundred different periodicals, see any play I like and laugh at the government if I wish. Think of how far we have come in a little time, and marvel."

● *Russian Beauty* is published on Monday by Hamish Hamilton (£9.99)



Erofeyev: "We have opened the windows and can breathe normally again"

Menace is taken to the brink of madness



Matthew Scurfield, Cesar Sarachu, Annabel Arden and Antonio Gil Martinez

BRUNO SCHULZ was a Polish Jew, a writer and handicrafts teacher who was shot dead in 1942, perhaps by a rival of the SS officer who had taken him under his protection. His odd, troubled tales have been compared with the novels of Kafka and the paintings of Chagall; but any theatre-goer who still remembers the productions of his fellow-Pole, the late Tadeusz Kantor, will have a good purchase on his work.

Both *Wielopole Wielopole* and *The Dead Class* — those old men with white, haunted faces obsessively peering the schoolrooms of their youth — were indebted to Schulz and are stylistically akin to the adaptation of his short stories now passing through the National.

Theatre de Complicité is the company responsible, as it was for the version of Durrenmatt's *The Visit* recently seen at the same address. If you are not familiar with this increasingly fashionable outfit, do not

THEATRE

The Street of Crocodiles Cottesloe

be put off by the pretentious name. That is French, but the language mostly English, and the imagery international. A thin, pale boy is alone in a vast shabby room, sorting out books. One of them attracts his attention. He reads, smells, even kisses it, only to freeze like a hare sensing danger. There is a stamp of feet on gravel: Hitler's men on the march. Since this character is eventually shot, he is presumably meant to remind us of Schulz; but he is also Joseph, protagonist of the stories, notably *Street of Crocodiles* itself. Narrative clarity is not that tale's strong point, and even those who know it may find some of the evening confus-

ing. But a plot of sorts is just about discernible. Joseph (Cesar Sarachu) is painfully rediscovering a lost past: the mother (Annabel Arden) who always remained aloof, the earthy, angry maid (Lilo Bauri) who ran the household, the father (Matthew Scurfield) who lost his mind and ended up staring forlornly into space.

This last figure, a master-drafter closely modelled on Schulz senior, is the main focus of Joseph's despairing nostalgia. As in the stories, he fuses over the ledgers, philosophises in the grand East European manner ("for too long the perfection of God's creativeness has paralysed our creative instincts") and raises birds in the attic. As *Complicité* stages it, eggs suddenly start dropping through the ceiling onto the dinner table, Adela stalks grim-faced upstairs, and suddenly the stage is full of flapping, screeching, falling bodies.

Scenes of hubbub and havoc often occur. Joseph instructs

a class in woodwork, only to see the desks torn apart. Customers feverishly dance about the family shop: everybody screams and scatters as lightning flashes and a terrifying black figure scuttles across the stage. Finally, a phalanx of people in funeral attire grab an anonymous figure, half-man, half-bird, and hit, hammer and boot him to death.

We are becoming used to *Complicité*'s derring-do, and there is certainly plenty of that here. Simon McBurney, who directs, performs imaginative marvels with chairs, umbrellas, swathes of cloth, white light, and, not least, Sarachu's strikingly vulnerable face and wounded looks. But by the end something more substantial has been suggested. This is a world where mere menace may at any moment escalate into madness: Schulz's disintegrating world, maybe our world, too.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Connors conned

Six Degrees of Separation Comedy

JOHN GUARE's celebrated play owes its West End transfer from the Royal Court to a happy confluence of qualities. There is a timeless allure to Guare's story of a young black nobody charming his way into the rich Manhattan world of the almost-somebodies. The acting is generally good, and excellent where excellence is vital. Phyllida Lloyd's snappy direction binds together the play's different styles: the direct address by the conned Manhattanites eager to draw us onto their side, the naturalistic encounters, and the moments of anarchic free-for-all.

Guare's literate, allusive dialogue delicately batters his audience with the assumption that we possess more than a passing knowledge of Cézarne, Kandinsky and J.D. Salinger, while the ruefully funny one-liners place the characters precisely within their brittle, moderately caring (though let's not be carried away) metropolitan milieu.

In the presence of such rare good things, that create as entertaining and thought-provoking evening as any in the West End, there remains an awkward hollow at the centre of the play. This hollow is the personality of Paul, the young con-man, and it niggles at the mind.

In one sense, of course, his personality has to be presented as blank. It is the empty canvas on which he paints the composition that literally dazzles his willing victims. Chief of these proves to be the



Stockard Channing: her performance is rewarding

fused. "Are these rich people?" Paul asks, in the flashback to the start of his dizzy climb towards grandeur. "No," comes the reply. "Hand to mouth on a higher plateau."

To this plateau Paul aspires, and like some latter-day Liza Doolittle, he does it from the outside in, aping the accents of the well-to-do, their gestures and conversational concerns, posing as the son of Sidney Poitier and a college friend of his victims' children. Unlike Liza his motives appear to be envy, but like her the style he apes seems capable of permanently changing the person within — a tribute to the imaginative power that Paul hurls so eloquently.

But Paul's initial blankness is a dramatic contrivance. Charming, wistfully played by Adrian Lester, he is given too little material to motivate the character's sudden craving for the high life.

Outside this hollow, however, the play offers many rewards, chief of them Channing's revelation of Ouisa's disconcerted heart, perhaps changed forever by her angelic villain. He has spun his way into her cloistered life, plucked at her social conscience, enchanted with his amazing grace and vanishes into the New York penal system, untraceable because she does not know his real name. This is Paul's tragedy but Channing's performance makes you feel that it is also hers.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

"When he left the Bristol Old Vic 20 years ago, the director told him: 'In the 1930s you'd have made a fortune. But your face is all wrong for the present. And you speak proper English. That's not fashionable now.'"

Today he is one of the world's best known actors. Who is he?
Read The Sunday Times Review tomorrow

Red, white and easy to do

Tomatoes and eggs are the perfect ingredients for casual meals in the sun, says Frances Bissell, the Times cook



WITH the dog days of high summer upon us, small meals, snacks and grazing food are what we want to eat most of the time, rather than formal meals. Timesables become a little more relaxed, and who cares if the bowl of tomato salad and hard-boiled eggs you serve at noon is a late breakfast or an early lunch?

Food that needs no cooking, or which cooks in the minimum time, appeals at the moment. Fish cooks quickly; eggs cook even more quickly and make ideal summer food, served hot, warm or cold, in salads or flans, or combined with other flavourful ingredients. I have included some of my favourite egg dishes today, which can be served at any time of the day and are almost as easy to prepare for a crowd as for oneself.

Poached eggs with tomatoes use my other favourite summer food; this dish is not unlike the Spanish *pisto manchego* and the Portuguese *manja*. The first also uses peppers in something like a *rataouille*, the second includes bread.

Bread and tomatoes have an extraordinary affinity. Good, chewy bread and ripe, sweet tomatoes make the ultimate summer treat, and we have a good chance of being able to enjoy them now. Not only are there Italian plum tomatoes in the shops, but old-fashioned garden varieties, with nostalgic names such as *Alisa*, *Craig*, are being sold in supermarkets, after years of tasteless tomatoes from both home and abroad. There is really no point to a tomato unless it has a pungent, just-picked, "green" smell, a tough, red skin and juicy sweetness.

Garlic and extra virgin olive oil are refinements to this perfect combination of refreshing, fragrant, satisfying ingredients. Almost everywhere that tomatoes are grown, there is a local version of bread and tomatoes, and I have included some of the best. I am not

sure that the tomato pudding has a similarly traditional place in the English repertoire. I first came across it years ago in Jennifer Paterson's column in *The Spectator*. The version I have given before in this column has pleased whenever I have served it, sometimes as a large pudding, more often as individual puddings, which I make in teacups, and turn out on to plates with a few salad leaves or poached young vegetables.

Unlike the fruit in summer pudding, the tomatoes should not be cooked first: it is the fresh, uncooked flavour which is so appealing. The recipe assumes, as do all these recipes, that you have ripe, flavourful tomatoes that need no flavour boost. But first here is a pair of dishes with real Mediterranean flavours.

Bread and tomatoes

Hot: bis zelt (Maltese version)

Slice a loaf of country bread, or cut a ciabatta in half horizontally. Halve some ripe, juicy tomatoes, rub these over the cut side of the bread, and put them to one side. Pour some extra virgin olive oil into a shallow dish, and season with sea salt and freshly ground black pepper. Dip the bread in it, cut side down, and then cover it with tomatoes, which will need to be sliced again or chopped. In Malta chopped capers, olives, mint and anchovies are sometimes added to the *bis zelt*.

Pa amb tomàquet (Catalan version)

This is also identical to the *pan served in Valencia* as *pan valenciano*. And in Liguria (Italy), it is called *pan bagnat* (bathed bread). There it is made very special with the light, fruity oil of the region. In order to get a proper scraping of garlic on the bread, it is a good idea to lightly toast or grill it on one side. Cut a garlic clove in half, and rub it over the rough surface. Then pile sliced or chopped tomatoes on top, press down, salt and pepper lightly, and then trickle on the olive oil. You can

also crush the remaining garlic and add it. As with all versions of bread and tomato, it is best left, if you can bear to wait for at least 15 minutes, to let the juices seep into the bread. You can eat it with a knife and fork, as an open sandwich, or clamp another garlic and oil-soaked slice on top, and eat it as a two-handed. It is easy to appreciate why these are known as kitchen-sink sandwiches in the southern states of America.

Tomato pudding
(English version)
(serves 6)
2lb/900g tomatoes
8-10 slices firm white bread with crusts removed
sea salt
freshly ground black pepper
extra virgin olive oil
sherry vinegar

Peel the tomatoes, and cut them in half. Set a sieve over a bowl, and put the tomato skins in it. Squeeze in all the seeds and pulp. Chop the tomato flesh and put it in another bowl. Rub the pulp and skins

through the sieve to extract maximum juice and flavour. Pour half the resulting liquid on to the tomatoes. Taste the mixture, and then add just enough salt and pepper to season. Mix the remaining tomato liquid with olive oil and sherry vinegar, using 3-4fl oz/85-110ml in all, with rather more oil than vinegar. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Cut the bread into wedges, dip into the dressing, and line a 7pt (approx.) pudding basin. Spoon in the chopped tomatoes, and cover with more bread. Cover the pudding with food wrap or foil, put a weight on top, and refrigerate for six to eight hours or overnight. To serve, turn out on to a chilled plate, decorate with herbs, and serve with more dressing or a creamy dressing full of chopped herbs. I prefer to keep the purity of the tomato flavour in the pudding and serve herb-flavoured accompaniments. Others might prefer to mix fresh basil, chives, tarragon or garlic with the tomato. The pudding also works well with a filling of

Eggs and aromatics

The suave neutrality of the egg provides an excellent foil for small mouthfuls of intense flavour. A soft-boiled egg with the top sheared off and a spoonful of caviar in its place is the best illustration of this, but not the only one. Vegetable purées, olive paste and herb-flavoured cream cheeses are other possibilities. The boiled eggs can be served in double egg cups, and the accompaniments grouped in bowls.

An alternative way of proceeding is to make small one-egg omelettes, spoon on some filling, roll up, and arrange the filled omelettes on a large platter. Highly flavoured tomatoes can be peeled, seeded and chopped with a little fresh basil or mint. This, too, partners an omelette or a boiled egg well, as does a spoonful of well-cooked onion purée mixed with crushed walnuts. Smoked cod's roe mixed with softened butter and pepper, peeled, roasted red peppers, finely chopped and mixed with herbs, finely grated lemon zest and olive oil, blanched shredded courgettes mixed with

chives and purées of peas or beans mixed with summer savory are all combinations worth trying.

Poached egg in tomato sauce
(serves 4 to 6)
1 large mild onion
4tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1 1/2lb/680g tomatoes
2 bay leaves
some basil stalks
salt, pepper
6 free-range eggs
fresh basil

Peel and thinly slice the onion, and sweat it in the olive oil until soft. Use a large, heavy sauce or frying pan. Meanwhile, blanch and peel the tomatoes. Halve and remove the seeds and roughly chop. Add to the onions, together with the herbs and a little seasoning, and cook until you have a rich tomato sauce. Remove the herbs. Make six depressions in the surface of the sauce, and slide an egg into each. Sprinkle a little more olive oil on top. Cover and cook on a gentle heat until the eggs are just set. Tear

up basil leaves, and scatter over the eggs and tomatoes. Serve from the pan, or carefully slide into a warmed earthenware dish.

Eggs Cacho (scrambled eggs with vegetables)
(serves 4)
1tbsp olive oil
1 celery stalk
1 carrot
12 spring onions
6oz/170g mushrooms
6oz/170g bean sprouts
6 eggs
soy sauce

Heat the oil, and peel and trim the vegetables. Slice the celery on the oblique, shred the carrot, cut the spring onions into diagonal pieces, and slice the mushrooms. Toss in the oil, celery first, then the carrots a minute or two later, then the onions, mushrooms and bean sprouts, blanched. Beat the eggs with a teaspoon of soy sauce, and pour over the vegetables. Turn with a spatula until just beginning to set. Serve immediately, with a little more soy sauce, if liked.

Simply the best

ENTERTAINING AT HOME

BRUCE OLDFIELD

Cooking first began to interest me 15 years ago, when people were frequently inviting me round for meals. I somehow got into the habit of arriving a bit early and heading straight for the kitchen to watch what was going on.

My ex-partner and good friend Anita Richardson was very much my mentor at first — she's a brilliant cook. As one who has an enquiring mind, I'd constantly be asking: "How do you do that, what is this need to find out about things. Even at restaurants I want to know exactly what it is I'm eating and how they achieved the taste."

I prefer cooking simple

things. I can't make soufflés, for example. Well, I suppose I could — I firmly believe anything's do-able if you try — but the point is I don't want to make soufflés. I don't like show-off food any more than I like show-off clothes and show-off people. What I do like is good ingredients simply cooked.

I particularly admire the cooking of [Anton] Mosimann. OK, some people might say Mosimann isn't exactly simple, but I disagree. What he does is simple in that

the main ingredients aren't messed about with.

I keep saying to him: "I've got to come and spend some time in your kitchen and you can show me things," and he keeps saying, "Yeah, well, do it," but then somehow one doesn't ever have the time.

As I'm the sort of person who always likes to be on the go, I find cooking very relaxing. Spending a Saturday afternoon preparing dinner or Sunday lunch for friends is perfect. I mean, I'm not thinking about frocks for a change.

I do everything in a very methodical way. The table is laid simply, with white Wedgwood china and silver cutlery. I've been collecting this bone-handled stuff for years from a Welshman who rings every now and then and says: "Ere, Bruce, I've got ten knives for you." I've now got so many bone-handled knives and forks, all different designs, that I'm always scrabbling around to find six that match... except that sort of thing doesn't really matter, does it?

I'm lucky working in Knightsbridge. It means I can shop at Harrods Food Hall. I think it's fantastic. Then there's the wonderful fish shop, La Piceña in Walton Street SW3, which I pass every evening to get to my car. I buy a lot of fish — simple fillets or steaks — and make a sauce to go with them.

I guess I follow trends. I'm definitely cooking Italian at the moment, lots of lentils, lots of grilled vegetables. And because I'm always looking after my weight, it's good from a diet point of view as well.

My flat in Battersea overlooks the river and it's particularly nice sitting on the balcony with friends after a meal, watching the sun go down. I can get about six on my balcony, which means there's not much room to

move. And there's always music softly wafting in the background, usually English 20th-century, Vaughan Williams and Britten, lyrical stuff like that.

I never eat puddings, though I'm not so selfish that I don't sometimes whip up a fruit terrine. I like something sweet to finish a meal, a choccy or something, though just one is enough. To me, the best part of a dinner party is when people have eaten and they're all drinking wine or brandy, sipping coffee, nibbling cheese or a bit of fruit... it's all done and I can relax, too.

As I'm an early riser, I usually get people to come at eight, and we finish by 12. I don't like eating late, it's not good for you. If people don't want to go home, I'll probably go upstairs to bed. It may seem pointed but my friends know by now that I'm fairly direct.

Bruce Oldfield's Fish Dish
(any resemblance to an Anton Mosimann recipe is purely intentional)
4 slices of cod
2tbsp sherry vinegar
2tbsp chopped capers
2tbsp diced red and yellow peppers
2tbsp chopped spring onions
1tbsp flat-leaved parsley
12 smoked and chopped black olives
3 silvers finely chopped chili pepper
1 crushed clove of garlic
salt, black pepper

Put all ingredients except fish into a bowl with five tablespoons olive oil and marinate for one hour. Pre-heat grill and lay seasoned cod fillets in a shallow, ovenproof dish with two tablespoons water. Grill for four minutes, or until cooked. Place the fish, separating flesh slightly, and spoon mixture on top. Serve with grilled peppers, yellow and green courgettes.

Interview by Paddy Burt
Bruce Oldfield designs clothes for the rich and famous. He was awarded the OBE in 1990 for Services to Fashion.



Brandy bounty: deep in southwest France, this rich, sunbathed landscape is the domain of the House of Janneau

Southern amber nectar

Five generations of one family have devoted themselves to Armagnac

The House of Janneau is France's oldest producer of Armagnac. Five generations of Janneaus have succeeded Pierre Etienne Janneau, the founder of the firm, who built the first cellars in 1851.

Janneau Armagnac is produced in Gascony, in southwest France. It is made by the slow distillation of white wines produced in a strictly limited area comprising the greater part of the Gers département, and parts of Les Landes and Lot-et-Garonne. In all there are 20,800 hectares of vines in the three production areas of Bas-Armagnac, Tenarez and Haut-Armagnac; the best of the wines used for distillation come from the first two. The

main centres are Eauze and Condom, home of the House of Janneau.

Originally Armagnac was distilled in classical "pot" stills, but a single continuous process was invented in 1801 which is widely used today. However, in 1972 the pot stills were reintroduced, producing finer, lighter brandies, and now the House of Janneau blends the results of the two methods.

From the still, the Arma-

gnac is aged in hand-made oak casks, where the flavour of the oak is suffused into it, giving the Armagnac its distinctive aroma, and beautiful amber colour. The period of maturation in oak is determined by the cellar master.

Once maturation is completed, blending between brandies of different ages, origins and varieties commences, and the blend or "coupe" is born. Only eaux-de-vie produced

and blended in the legally defined Armagnac production area can carry the name Armagnac.

There are three styles of Janneau. Janneau VS is a blend of five brandies that have been matured for an average of five years. It is splendid as a digestif or as a base for longer mixed drinks or cocktails. Janneau VSOP (Very Special Old Pale) is the most popular style, which is a blend of fine Armagnacs that have been aged for approximately 12 years in oak casks. Janneau XO is a classic Armagnac, containing brandies that have been aged for over a generation. It is full of character, reflecting the true flavour of Gascony.



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How to enter: Answer the three questions on the right, then send your answers on a postcard with your name, address and daytime telephone number to: The Times/Janneau Armagnac Competition, 11 Whitefriars Street, London, EC8B 7NG.

QUESTIONS

- 1 How many different distilling methods are used in the production of Janneau Armagnac?
- 2 What type of wood is used for the hand-made casks?
- 3 In which region of France is the House of Janneau?

Rules: The competition is open to all UK residents aged 18 and over. Employees of Times Newspapers Ltd, Janneau Armagnac, their families or agents are not eligible. Entries must be received by August 25, 1992. The editor's decision is final. Times competition rules apply, available on request.

107 YEARS AGO WE HAD A GOOD IDEA



In 1885, A.C. Wilkin had the brilliant idea of making a jam from fruit and sugar. And if you're thinking "what's so brilliant about that?" the point is he made it from his own fresh fruit and used just fruit and sugar. Nothing else.

It was such a good idea it's kept us busy for 107 years. But, we wouldn't like to be thought of as a one-idea company. So we've had another thought.

Fruit Spreads. Made with the same care and attention from the same short ingredient list. But this time there's even more fruit, and a lot less sugar. Technically speaking, they have a softer set, which makes them ideal for mixing with yoghurt and making milk shakes, as well as just spreading. "Having a good idea" is becoming a habit. We've just had another one - If you'd like to try a jar, phone us this morning, Saturday 15th August, on 0621 815407 and we'll send you one, with a booklet of delightful recipe ideas, completely free.



JAN 14 62 1520

Over the counter: British tradition is strong in a Manchester cheese emporium, where local produce is the speciality. By Deirdre McQuillan

Proud of their curds and ways

Winding through Didsbury following the Wilmslow Road into Manchester, there are the usual plastic fascias on what were originally small Edwardian shops: pizza parlours, exhaust fitters, "supa saver" centres. Then suddenly, something different. In the window of number 706 are three huge Lancashire cheeses, looking as round and alluring as the Graces, with a discreet notice saying they are on promotion at £1.99 a pound.

Arthur Axon, the shopkeeper, has no trouble explaining their differences. The one on the right is a sharp cheese called Legh Toaster, made with cooking in mind. The one on the left is a new Lancashire, a single acid cheese with a crumbly texture. In the middle is Lancashire, made on a farm in the old way, by mixing one-day and two-day-old curds. It comes from Sandham's and is semi-soft cheese with a flavour of butter.

"I have never wanted to run a trendy cheese shop, somewhere that would cater only for connoisseurs," Mr Axon says. "If anyone leaves my shop feeling their taste was not good enough, or that we'd looked down on them for not buying expensive cheese, I would be very ashamed. I have firm opinions on how any cheese ought to be, but if some people think Lancashire should crumble when cut and others that it is best put on Hovis and toasted, they have a right to their view. My job is to get whatever customers want, but buy the best. I even stock Edam - a very good Edam."

But Mr Axon's story is not one to comfort pedlars of plastic-packed mediocrity. What has made him a patently happy man, and his shop, The Cheese Hamlet, such a success that he now has a second home in Florida, is traditional British cheese. The amount he sells should confound those who say that distinctive,

matured cheese is just a minority taste.

On a middling week The Cheese Hamlet handles three truckloads of unpasteurised Cheddar made by the Keen family at Wincanton. That is a weight of at least 160lb. The cheese is 16 months old when it arrives at the shop and will often spend another month maturing in the stockroom. It sells for £3.12 a pound. In Christmas week last year, customers bought half a ton.

Mr Axon has stocked this Cheddar since the shop opened 19 years ago, and it is his best-selling cheese by a long chalk. "Keen's is a Cheddar you develop a passion for. Customers come back week after week for it," he says.

There was such sympathy towards specialist enterprises when Mr Axon started The Cheese Hamlet that no cheese wholesaler would send Cheddar up to him. So he and Fran, his wife, went on a weekly round, calling on the Applebys at Hawtorn for their old-fashioned Cheshire, the Duckens at Wedmore for Caerphilly, and the Keens.

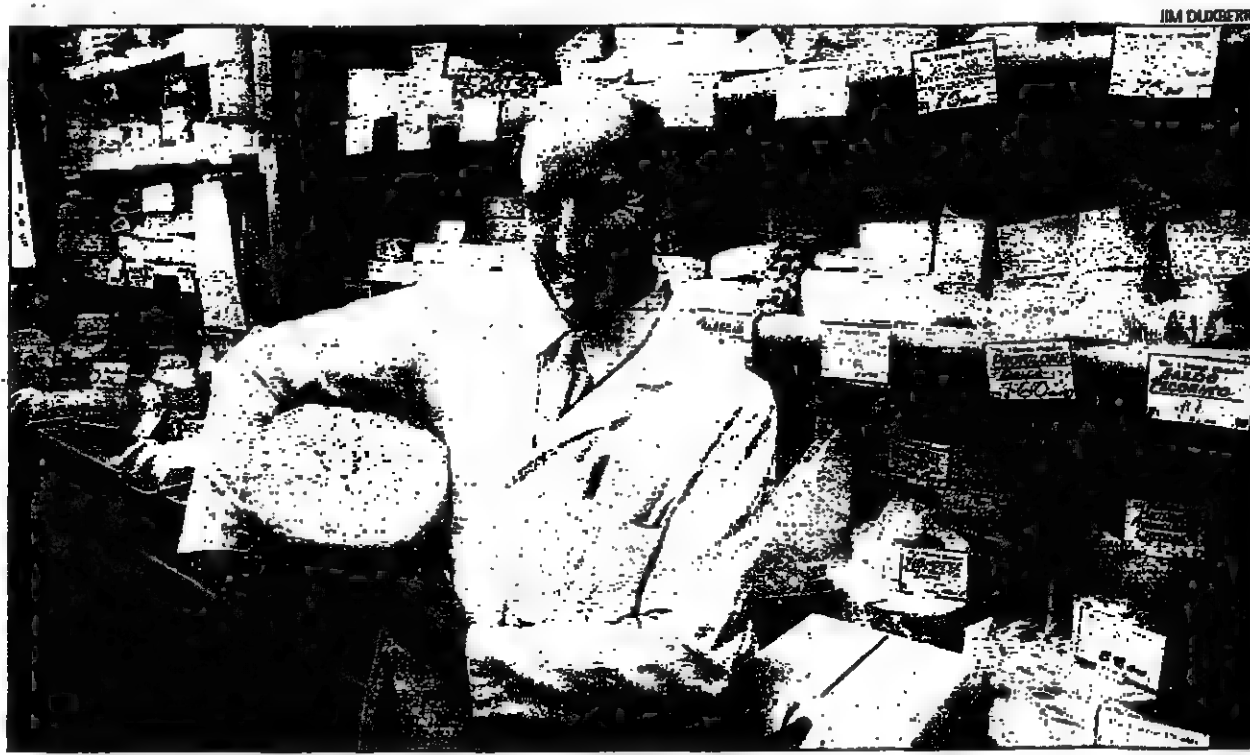
Twenty years ago Mr Axon was a baker and the Didsbury shop was intended to sell bread. "But my wife said, 'You know how much you love cheese, perhaps we should have a cheese shop instead.' So here we are. We have made a bit of a name for ourselves and people like our range and our prices, so we keep busy." The name of the shop came to him when reading an old encyclopaedia which said the best British cheese came from "small hamlets" long known for their expertise. It has become apt because Mr Axon himself has acquired an encyclopaedic knowledge, and regularly judges cheese competitions and gives lectures.

It would take a large lorry to stock The Cheese Hamlet nowadays; the narrow shop is packed with 120 British and

continental cheeses on one side of the counter and a queue of customers on the other. What attracts the eye are discs and columns of cheeses, some with marbled interiors exposed, some with soft white crusts, others growing lichen-like moulds on their skin or carrying the fine impression of cheesecloth.

More shades of white and cream than have ever been marketed by Dulux; blues and greys; faded greens, verdigris and deep yellows; the colours that can be made from pure milk curd are gorgeously assembled on the shelves. Northerners will not buy pink-tinted Cheshire, but are fond of Double Gloucester and Leicester turned orange with annatto dye. Green sage cheese is an old Derbyshire and Lancashire speciality, and the chocolate ripple effect a new invention, a mix of Irish cheddar with Porter beer.

Mr Axon believes there are, at most, 40 professional cheesemakers in Britain. It is



Arthur Axon at The Cheese Hamlet: "I have never wanted to run somewhere that would cater only for connoisseurs"

not unusual for one to do a stint on a farm that wants to start making its own cheese, training the farmer or a student, then going on to spend time at a factory-sized dairy (which is what creamery means) trying to improve its techniques. Whether standards remain high depends

on the aptitude of the pupils. By professional, Mr Axon means salaried. The cheesemakers who use their own farm milk are just as skilled and knowledgeable. Making butter and cheese used to be women's work; the recipe for Stilton, for example, was passed down from mother to

daughter. But when today's true farmhouse cheesemakers, women or men, have to stop, they may find there is no one in the neighbourhood interested in taking over. "It is a lot less work to pour milk into a tanker than be making cheese every day," Mr Axon says.

There are other reasons why

cheeses come and go, or change, such as trouble with milk quotas or a move from raw to pasteurised milk. Shifts in standards are not appreciated at The Cheese Hamlet. "My customers are not conservative in the sense that they won't try new things," Mr Axon explains. "They love to

do a bit of sampling. But whatever it is, they like it to stay consistent. They are quick to notice any change in quality."

Cheddar, Lancashire, Cheshire, Stilton and the Dales cheeses are Mr Axon's top sellers, although he also keeps a good selection from France and regularly has £10,000 worth of Parmesan on the premises.

Brie sells quickly, and there are notices explaining that cheese should be unwrapped and brought up to room temperature to taste its best.

"I would love to have a shop where there was no glass between the customer and the cheese, as in France, where you can reach across and touch the cheese," Mr Axon says. "But I wouldn't get away with it." Does he mean the customers would not like it? "I'm sure they'd love it no, I mean the health inspectors."

There is also character, bacon, olives, preserves and condiments, but he restricts these in case the shop starts to look like a delicatessen. "Cheese is what we are known for, and I want it to stay that way," he says.

● The Cheese Hamlet, 706 Wilmslow Road, Didsbury, Manchester M20 0DW (061-434 4781). Open Mon-Wed, 8.30am-5.30pm, Thurs-Fri, 8.30am-6pm, Sat, 8.30am-4.30pm.

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Tipples without the tipsy

Jane MacQuitty rounds up the best of the low-alcohol wine bunch

The taste of summer '92 is fizzy, fun and fruity - and has little to do with wine or alcohol. Reduced alcohol fruit wines are on sale everywhere this summer, and represent virtually the only buoyant bottles in a seriously static wine market.

Making a choice from the reduced, low and no-alcohol wine shelves in your local supermarket is a confusing business. Illogically and unfairly, the only bottles on these shelves allowed to bear the

word "wine" are those in the no-alcohol category of less than 0.05 per cent, and in the low-alcohol tier immediately above it registering between 0.05 and 1.2 per cent alcohol.

The big name in alcohol-free wines is Eisberg, launched in 1985. But despite massive improvements to the taste of all these low strength categories, Eisberg is almost as ersatz and boiled-sweet-like as ever. If you are determined this summer to avoid alcohol at all costs, the answer must be Pinot Moscato Light from California, introduced in 1986, with 0.49 per cent alcohol and a raisiny, stewed, vaguely grape-cake-like flavour.

But my advice is to avoid the no- and low-alcohol entirely, and step straight up to the much better tasting reduced alcohol tier (between 1.2 and 5.5 per cent alcohol). Despite their superior quality none of these bottles is allowed to use the word "wine", or even "low alcohol", on its label. It pays therefore to study the small print to see whether the bottles you are buying are wine, or merely wine-based. Phrases such as "partially fermented grape must", as found on the Pétillant de Lisle bottles, indicate that the product within is wine. Other producers simply add the word "light" to their usual full-strength name, such as Lambrusco Light and Goldener Oktober Light.

Low-alcohol fruit wines also fit into this large, reduced alcohol category, although of course you won't find any of those words on their labels. Instead, look out for names like strawberry fizz, Tesco peach, raspberry or wildberry. Also belonging to this reduced alcohol group are the sometimes wine-based 5 per cent alcohol cocktails with popular names such as Buck's Fizz and Kir Royale (Marks & Spencer has the widest range).

While purists won't bother with these strange, sweet, low or no-alcohol bottles at around £1.99 each (due to 70 per cent lower duty than on full strength wines), they will go down well with sporting folk and teenagers, offering rather more kick and flavour than the soft drink alternatives, and with those who hate the palaver of mixing drinks. The best of them are listed on the left.



Alcohol-free zone: Paul Masson Light

Best buys

- **Luxton Medea Valley Low Alcohol Chardonnay** (1.3 per cent) Sainsbury £2.59. About the closest the low alcohol wine producers have got to the real thing. Aged in oak, with a powerful, over-ripe pineapple scent.
- **Gloucester Lambrusco Light** (0.8 per cent) Waitrose £1.69. Inoffensive, pure, sweet, grapey balsemyr flavour put this bottle way ahead of the flabby, oxidised, low strength wines of old.
- **Goldener Oktober Light** (1.9 per cent) Sainsbury £1.69, Odeon £1.75. Pleasant spicy, grapey fruit with an almond-like finish. Not oxidised, or ersatz as it once was. Forget the red.
- **Sainsbury's Buck's Fizz** (5 per cent) Sainsbury £1.99. Not to everyone's taste, but a sweet and perfectly palatable summer concoction.

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WHERE TO WALK

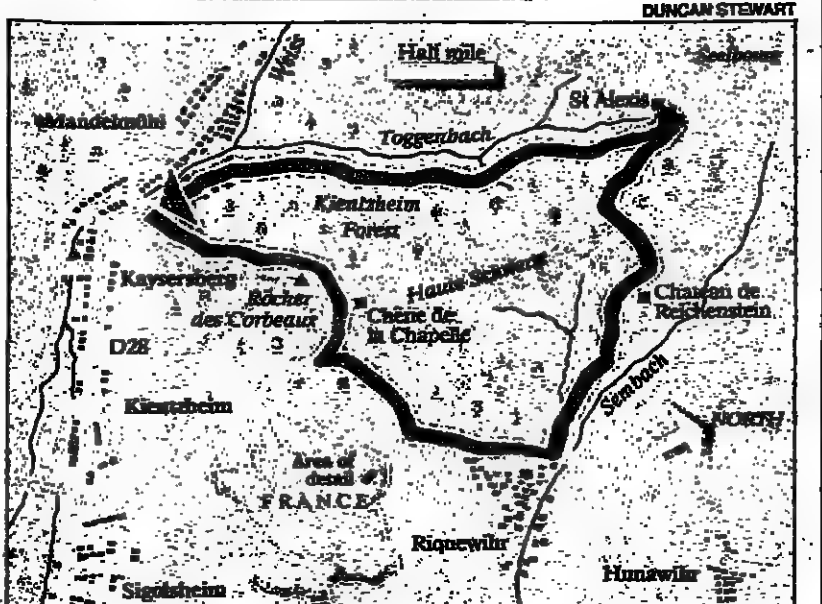
ALSACE is splendid walking country for everything from strolling over mountain tops to a riverside stroll on the plains. The Club Vosgien (4 rue de la Douane, 67000 Strasbourg, tel. 88 32 57 96), the local ramblers' association, has organised more than 9,000 miles of marked footpaths and its walking maps are available in bookshops, newsagents and tourist offices all over Alsace. The Parc Naturel Régional des Vosges du Nord publishes leaflets about nature rambles in the northern Vosges woodlands, and organises *Circuits sans Bagages*, six to 12-day holidays that include accommodation, meals and having your luggage transported to each overnight stopping place on the planned route. Their offices are in La Petite-Pierre, itself a Clapham junction for delightful forest and valley walks (Maison du Parc, 67290 La Petite-Pierre, 88 70 46 55). The Association Départementale du Tourisme du Haut-Rhin, Hôtel du Département, 68006 Colmar (89 23 21 11) can supply a leaflet enabling you to book similar services for parties of five or more using the Grande Randonné, paths (the GRS and GRS3) in the Upper Vosges, and the Office du Tourisme de la Vallée de Munster (Place du Marché, BP21, 68140 Munster, 89 77 31 80) organises group hikes lasting from half a day to eight days or more in their area using cabins and *fermes-auberges* for meals and accommodation. Finally the Office National des Forêts (2 rue de l'Hôpital Militaire, 67084 Strasbourg Cedex, 88 36 31 58), offers full and half-day guided walks, with commentaries in French or German.

Walking the GRS: Vosges to Jura is a guide to some 350 miles of footpaths, about half of them in Alsace, published in English in Robertson McCarr's *Footpaths of Europe* series at £11.95.

Wine and distillery visits: All along the Route du Vin winemakers offer *vente directe* (farm-gate sales) and *dégustation* (wine tastings). Most of the co-operatives and many of the larger *négoçiants* houses offer tours lasting half an hour to two hours. Distilleries can also be visited for free tastings of *kirch* and other *eaux-de-vie* in, for example Colmar (Wolfberger), Albe (Adrian, Meylun), Ribeauvillé (Giselle, Hohl) and Lapoutroie (Mico, Micaul).

Ballooning: Hot air balloon trips are offered by Aérovision, 4 rue de Hohrod, 68140 Munster (89 77 22 81); Flecher Tourisme, 59 rue de l'Île, 67390 Ohnenheim (89 92 50 75); and Tourmaline, 2 rue d'Aras, 67000 Strasbourg (88 61 00 40).

Boating: Cruises are available from Strasbourg on the Rhine (Alsace-Croisières, 12 rue de la Division Ledere, 88 32 44 55) or canal (Canal-Tour, BP8 67026 Strasbourg).



For my own walk, though, I finally chose a route linking Kayersberg and Riquewihr, two of the most popular and most visited villages of the Route du Vin. The walk is among 11 routes in a free translated booklet, *Proposals of Walking Tours in the Region of Colmar*, available from the tourist office in Colmar. The path starts from the Badus beside the much-photographed 15th-century fortified bridge in Kayersberg. Follow signposts to the 11th-century château, from which you will have an even better view of the town's nest on the Badus roof. From the château the path climbs, following blue cross waymarks, up beneath the 2,087ft Rocher des Corbeaux to the Chêne de la Chapelle.

There leave the blue cross path, turning right to follow yellow triangle markers through the forest to descend through the vineyards to the fortified medieval town of Riquewihr. You can

return by the easy though unmarked Chemin du Vignoble via Kientzheim, but those with energy should leave Riquewihr by the 15th-century Pont du Dolder tower and the Ober to climb up the Sennbach valley toward the ruins of the Château de Reichenstein.

Beyond the castle the path rejoins the blue cross marked route coming up through Haute Schwitz. One and a half hours' climbing brings you to the farm restaurant of St Alexis and its neighbouring chapel, at a height of 2,300ft, beneath the Seelburg. Follow yellow discs down through the Toggenbach valley and the Kientzheim forest to re-enter Kayersberg by the Mandelbühl.

This route and others can be followed on the Club Vosgien's 1:50,000 Carte des Vosges sheet Colmar-Munster-Gerdmer-St. Die. The walk is not hard and takes about five and a half hours.

Pisciculture, 1 rue de Nomény, 67000 Strasbourg.

Golf: There are 18-hole courses at Illkirch-Graffenstaden near Strasbourg (88 61 72 29) and Chalampé, Mulhouse (89 26 07 86).

Hang-gliding: At Le Hohwald and other sites on the Route des Crêtes, information about schools and equipment rental: Comité Départementale de Vol Libre, 35 rue Jean-Martin, 68200 Mulhouse (89 59 18 39).

Riding: The Parc Naturel Régional des Vosges du Nord can supply a *Randonnée, tourisme, équestre* information pack detailing farms (*fermes-auberges*) in the Northern Vosges which offer riding holidays with self-catering accommodation: Maison du Parc-Château, 67290 La Petite-Pierre (88 70 46 55). Other information is available from the Association Alsacienne de Tourisme Equestre, 78 rue de l'Oberhardt, 68000 Colmar (89 79 38 48).

WHAT TO DO

Cedex, 88 62 54 98). Boats can be hired from Strasbourg/Schiltigheim or Saverne for cruising on a 300km canal network: Nichols Yacht, 11 rue de l'Orangerie, 67703 Saverne (88 91 34 80).

Canoeing: Comité Départemental de Canoe-Kayak du Bas-Rhin, 15 rue de Genève, 67000 Strasbourg (88 35 27 20).

Cycling: Cycles can be rented at principal railway stations. The Association pour le Développement des Vosges du Nord, Maison du Parc-Château, 67290 La Petite-Pierre (88 70 46 55) organises cycling and mountain-biking tours on the lightly trafficked roads of the regional park, with luggage transport from hotel to hotel.

Fishing: Licences can be obtained from tourist offices and town halls. Fédération Départementale des Associations de Pêche et de

ALSACE

A past scarred by brutal wars of possession is barely discernible today in the least French of all France's regions. Alsace. Robin Young savours its flower-filled harmony

If one could clutch at any hope for eventual relief from the miserable massacre that has brutalised Bosnia-Herzegovina, the best source would be the north-eastern edge of France.

Alsace, wedged between the Vosges mountains to the west and the Rhine to the east, has been fought over for centuries and torn, like a hare between hounds, by the rival powers of France and Germany. Yet today it is the most welcoming, charming, picturesque and peaceful region to be found anywhere in France. Alsace has miraculously survived the ancient enmities to inherit a double endowment of riches and traditions now that France and Germany are at peace.

This is the least French of all the regions of France — travellers may notice how frequently villages in Alsace have twinned, not with villages in foreign countries, but with other places within France, of the *l'intérieur*, as Alsacians call it.

There is no separatist movement to speak of in Alsace now. Yet despite official disavowal (embodied in the post-war motto: "C'est chic parler français"), two thirds of the population still speak their own dialect, *Élszischditsch*, a sing-song variant of German which is akin to the Alemannic languages heard across the Rhine in Baden and in Switzerland.

The neatly kept, picturebook villages of Hunsrück and Gertel gingerbread houses, with bursts of geraniums burgeoning from every balcony, look like the best bits of southwest Germany dressed overall with an added French *je ne sais quoi*.

The wines, in tall bottles like those the Germans use (some of them employing Riesling, the Germans' best wine variety), have the extra distinction and authority that comes from thoroughly French winemaking. And, as part of its dual heritage drawn equally from Germany and France, Alsace is as famous for beer as for wine. The *département* of Bas-Rhin grows hops as well as sunflowers, and

Kronenbourg, Schütz, Kanterbrau, Mutzig, and other Alsatian brews account for about half France's beer production.

Convivial eating places can be *winstubs* or *caveaux*. In both the food comes in Teutonic proportions, but prepared with French *savoir-faire*. In place of flowery French the menu is filled with blunt, uncompromising and earthy-sounding names: *presskopf* (brun), *schiffala* (smoked shoulder of pork), *spätzle* (browned noodles), *baeckeoffa* (mixed meat stew with onion and potato), and *kougelhopf* (moulded sponge cake flavoured with almonds and raisins).

Yet the dining room smells French, even where the dishes' names sound German. There is one possible exception: the French press has suggested that the pungently aromatic local

European Community than *tricolores* flying in Alsace, and when you get to the German border, the border post is as likely as not to be unmanned, or not to exist at all.

That it was not always so is quickly seen in the north of Alsace where the hills are lined with the remains of *châteaux forts*, stubs of red sandstone fortresses protruding above the trees like cigarette butts on rumpled baize. Along a 100-mile route winding from the frontier town of Wissembourg to the delightfully restful station *verre* of Birkenwald, south of Saverne, you can pass or visit no fewer than 25, most in various states of disrepair and decrepitude. The Maison des Châteaux-Forts in Obersteinbach tells their story in well-planned displays.

If you want to visit just one, the most astonishing is Fleckenstein, above the German border north of Lembach. The 12th-century castle's ruins merge with the natural rock to which they cling, and from which the lower chambers and subterranean passageways have been hewn.

More recent, and tragically famous, are the remains of the Maginot line, the supposedly impenetrable defences on which the French pinned their faith in the inter-war years, and which Guderian's panzers nimbly outflanked when the phoney war ended. At Four à Chaux, outside Lembach, visitors are led through the claustrophobic concrete catacombs where a garrison of 580 men lived like pit ponies, sequestered from daylight, through their anxious time.

Other carefully preserved Maginot remains: that can be visited are the infantry casemate, Esch, at Hatten, and the line's largest artillery complex, Schoenenbourg. At Marckolsheim in the Ried, the marshy plain by the Rhine, an infantry casemate has been converted into a Maginot Line museum. Happily, though, one can forget battles and wars entirely in Alsace today if one wishes.

PASSPORT TO FRANCE

cheese, munster, has the flavour of France but smells of Germans. In Alsace, where Germans now flock not as conquering invaders but as paying guests, that is regarded as a mildly risqué and potentially offensive joke.

The point remains the same. From a history full of terrors and travail, Alsace has emerged to enjoy the best of two previously warring worlds. The experience has made ardent and convinced Euro-idealists of the population. Strasbourg, the capital of Alsace, is now also the capital of Europe, seat of the Council and meeting place of the European Parliament. You are likely to see more of the blue and gold starred flags of the



Best of both worlds: while

There are touristic routes d'vised for so many other things see that one could return ye after year, still make new discoveries, and never return has disappointed.

In the quiet and less visited north, 300,000 forested acres constitute the Parc Naturel Régional des Vosges du Nord, once national park and nature reserve. Its headquarters are the castle of La Petite-Pierre, hill resort which makes a go centre for a relaxing holiday, both the Route des Châteaux Anciens, which links 18 of the most interesting old church and chapels of the area. The church at La Petite-Pierre is a symbol of peculiarity Al-

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Beijing, perhaps also making a visit to the Terracotta Army in the city of Xian.



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- DAY 7 At Sea.
- DAY 8 Xiamen. Xiamen (Amoy) was a prominent Ming trading port in the 11th century and later a place of refuge for Ming rulers fleeing from the Manchurian invaders. See the Gulangyu Island and the Nanputuo Temple and the Jintan village.
- DAY 9 Fuzhou. Mentioned by Marco Polo, the 14th century city of Fuzhou is situated 25 miles upstream from the mouth of the Min River. See Nantai Island, where foreigners first established themselves when Fuzhou became an unequal treaty port in the 19th century, also the thousand year old Yunguang Monastery and West Lake Park.
- DAY 10 At Sea.



DAY 11 Shanghai. Drive along the Nanking Road and see the Bund, excellent shopping and interesting museums await. Moor overnight.

DAY 12 Shanghai. Day free for exploration and shopping. Sail in the afternoon.

DAY 13 Zhangjiagang. A day of exploration in Wuxi, one of the most charming cities in all China with its picturesque canals and bridges, beautiful gardens and parks. Sail in the late afternoon along the Yangtze.

DAY 14 Nanjing. Arrive in the morning. Morning tour of the city. Drive across one of the enormous Yangtze bridges, see the Mausoleum of Sun Yat Sen, the first Ming tomb and the Ling Gu Pagoda on Purple Mountain. Afternoon flight Nanjing to Hong Kong. Stay 2 nights at the Hilton.

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FESTIVALS

Wine fairs: The Alsace regional wine fairs continue in Colmar and in Obernai until Aug. 16. Then Aug. 22-23. Ammerschwiler, Aug. 29-30. Sept. 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27. Riquewihr, Sept. 26-27. Kayersberg.

Celebrations of the new vintage: Sept. 20 and 27. Beblenheim; Sept. 27. Beblenheim; Sept. 26-27 and Oct. 3. Wuenheim; Oct. 4. Soultz; Oct. 11. Illersheim and Soultz.

Vintage festivals and local fairs: Until Aug. 16. Schiltigheim; Aug. 22-30. Altkirch; Aug. 26-30. Haguenau; Sept. 6. Ohlungen.

Beer festivals and local fairs: Until Aug. 16. Schiltigheim; Aug. 22-30. Altkirch; Aug. 26-30. Haguenau; Sept. 6. Ohlungen.

Choucroute fests: Sept. 4-6 Colmar; Sept. 13. Geispolsheim; Sept. 20. Petersbach; Sept. 26-27 and Oct. 3. Krautergersheim; Sept. 27. Herrlisheim; Oct. 11. Hésingue.

Other food festivals: Fried carp, Aug. 14-16. Munchouse; ham, Aug. 22-23. Guemar; sugar, Aug. 29-31. Erstein; lentils, Sept. 6. Heimsbrunn; local products, Sept. 6. Obersteinbach; fruit, Sept. 6. Wiltz; Walz bread, Sept. 12-13. Michelbach-le-Haut; milk, Sept. 13. Jebsheim; plums, Sept. 27. Reichshoffen; meat pies, Oct. 3-4. Munster; grape, Oct. 10-11. Molsheim; chestnuts, Oct. 25. Oberbrunn; snails, mid-April. Osenbach.

Miscellaneous: Aug. 15, Le Mariage de l'Ami Fritz folk festival, Marlenheim; Aug. 21-23, Pfifferdaj musicians' festival; Bischwiller; Aug. 23, dahlia festival, Eschau; Aug. 29-30, winemakers' fair, Eguisheim; Sept. 6, logging contest, Roderen.

ALSACE is as crowded with Michelin stars as it is with flowery villages. This personal selection of restaurants includes recommendations at all price levels.

La Petite Pierre: Hôtel Restaurant des Vosges (88 70 45 05). Jean Wehrung's dining room is the best place to eat in this lovely mountain resort. Menus from FF98.

Obersteinbach: Hôtel Anthon, 40 rue Principale (88 09 55 01). Menus from FF105 in the circular dining room of a popular large inn in a very attractive village. Specialises in game in season.

Lembach: Auberge du Cheval Blanc, 4 rue Wissembourg (88 94 41 86). Great cooking in an opulent 18th-century coaching inn. Fernand Mischler's specialties include turbot with oysters, and venison with mustard and red fruits.

Haguenau: Barbesse, 8 place Barbesse (88 73 31 09). Well prepared and beautifully presented menus cost as little as FF55 in this attractive town restaurant.

Strasbourg: Buechiesel, 4 place Orangerie (88 61 62 24). Antoine Westermann runs a very fine and serious city restaurant. The cheapest specialties include eels with coriander and pigeon with cabbage and confit of shallots. Le Crocodile, 10 rue de l'Outre (88 32 13 02). Emile Jung's weekday lunch menu is FF260; pressed duck, and quails with foie gras feature on the card.

Property: Alsace, situated at least six hours' drive from the Channel ports and with a cold, wet winter, has attracted few British property-buyers. Unlike many parts of rural France, there is also a shortage of houses to renovate. The Alsace has a plethora of prosperous towns and villages, and a long-standing tradition of maintaining buildings means that cheap, run-down properties are hard to find.

Yet this scenic region has much to offer. It is less than four hours' drive from Paris and well placed for visiting other parts of Europe: within a short drive of Frankfurt and Zurich, close to the Black Forest and the Swiss lakes, and not far from Luxembourg.

Alsace, with its old towns and ancient castles set amid thickly

WHERE TO EAT

Natzwiller: Auberge Metzger (88 97 02 42). Jolly little country inn, where menus can cost as little as FF52.

Ottrott-le-Haut, Obernai: Winstub Fritz, 8 rue Vignoble (88 95 80 81). Picture postcard restaurant, with a plane-tree shaded terrace behind the village church, offering extremely good value menus at FF90 and 125.

Mittelbergheim: Winstub Glig, 2 rue Rodland (route du Vin) (88 08 91 37). Big helpings of mainly traditional fare in a charming old establishment in an exquisite village. Menus from FF125.

Léopold: La Vieille Forge, 13 route de Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines (88 58 92 54). Exemplary regional cooking in really rustic surroundings. FF105 menu warmly recommended. Kintzheim: Auberge Saint-Martin, 80 rue de la Liberté (88 82 04 78). The FF100 menu could be onion tart, *choucroute garnie*, munster cheese and apple tart. A snip.

Baldenheim: La Couronne, 45 rue de Sélestat (88 85 32 22). Traditional cooking lightened with originality, charming welcome and friendly service. Menus from FF148.

Ribeauvillé: Les Vosges, 2 Grande-Rue (88 73 61 39). The best restaurant in a well served town. Menus from FF155.

Illhaeusern: Auberge de l'Île (88 71 83 23). Across the N83 from Riquewihr and discreetly

hidden between the village church and the river Ill is one of the most famous restaurants in France. Paul and Marie Haeberlin have three Michelin stars for such dishes as the *mousseline* of frogs' legs, sautéed soufflé, and truffle under the embers. They also host storks from the nest on a church roof regularly visit their lawns and preparing a nest on their hotel extension while it is still being built.

Riquewihr: A Farbalétrier, rue de Général-de-Gaulle, 49 01 21. You can eat well. Au Petit Gourmet, Auberge Schoenenbourg or l'Escure, l'Farbalétrier, in an old cell proved a bargain basement serious cooking on a menu only FF110.

Lapoutroie: Les Allières, Faude (89 47 52 82). Dining room has panoramic view of the Vosges countryside, though for cheap menus you'd better sit at the award-winning Logis de France Le Faude, rue du Général Dufieux (89 50 35), where they start FF85 including wine.

Ammerschwiler: Aux Armes France, 1 Grand-Rue (89 47 12). Philippe and Franco Garner have succeeded the father in the kitchen, but tradition is still that of a mentor, Fernand Point. The weekday lunch menu is FF24 at dinner reckon FF350-450.

Les Trois-Épis: Le Hohlsheim, Grand-Hôtel, place de l'Eglise (89 48 80 65). Panoramic views among the mountains, and excellent cooking.

Spoilt for choice dishes

Alsace, situated at least six hours' drive from the Channel ports and with a cold, wet winter, has attracted few British property-buyers. Unlike many parts of rural France, there is also a shortage of houses to renovate. The Alsace has a plethora of prosperous towns and villages, and a long-standing tradition of maintaining buildings means that cheap, run-down properties are hard to find.

Yet this scenic region has much to offer. It is less than four hours' drive from Paris and well placed for visiting other parts of Europe: within a short drive of Frankfurt and Zurich, close to the Black Forest and the Swiss lakes, and not far from Luxembourg.

Alsace, with its old towns and ancient castles set amid thickly wooded hills, is an attractive area in which to live. Strasbourg, the great cathedral city on the Rhine — and now the European Community capital — offers employment potential for British expatriates. There are important museums at Colmar and Mulhouse, and plenty

of picturesque villages — quaint, half-timbered houses, the wine route that winds southwards along the eastern rim of the Vosges mountains, with good cross-country skis, many excellent restaurants and delicious white wines. But expect to pay at least £100,000

Typically Alsatian: *colombage* houses cost from £100,000

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residents of Kayersberg tread a European path, its vineyards enjoy the happy union of German grapes and French expertise, perfectly reflecting the region's richly varied dual heritage

ties religious tolerance: one of the *églises simultanées* where Catholics worship in the chancel, while Protestants use the rest of the church.

Alternative northern routes to follow include excursions round the Pays de Hanau, exploring the curious hilly bump jutting westward into Lorraine around Sarre-Union known as *l'Alsace bossue* ('Alsace's humpback'), around the pottery villages of the Outre-Forêt, the spa resorts (Morsbrunn, Oberbronn, and Niederbronn-les-Bains) or, all's attractive of all, along a daisy-chain of picturesque villages taking in Seebach, Hunsbach, Hofen, Leierswiller, Oberrodern, Hatten, Betschdorf, Surbourg, Kutz-

hausen, Merkwiller-Pechelbronn, Soultz-sous-Forêt, Hohwiller and Kuhlendorf.

To the west and south of Strasbourg routes across the lush Kochersberg, Alsace's granary, include a Route du Tabac, and a Route de la Choucroute traversing the cabbage-growing area which provides the basis for Alsace's national dish, piles of pickled cabbage to be decked with pork and sausages, and linking 29 restaurants which serve it all year round.

In central Alsace there are further routes devised for visiting ancient religious sanctuaries, old silver mines, kirsch-making areas, and a cheese road through the Munster valley. In the deep south the

pastoral Sundgau, south of Mulhouse, offers the Route de la Carpe Frite, centred on Altkirch, promoting fried carp from the local stewpots.

Follow any of these routes in summer and you will find yourself conducted through a succession of beautiful villages and small towns with an often eye-straining blaze of flowers in the gardens and courtyards and at every window sill. How, one wonders, do the French decide that Hunsbach, Mittelbergheim and Hunawir should be officially categorised as *plus beaux villages de la France*, when so many of their neighbours are just as delightful?

Virtually the only way to escape the flowers is to take to the hills on one of the two most popular of all Alsace's many touristic routes. The Route des Crêtes runs along the western side of the mountain ridge on Alsace's periphery, from Cernay to Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines, through some of the most beautiful mountain landscapes in France, where chamois and neatly patterned black cows graze the *chaumes* (mountain pastures) above the tree line.

In winter the road becomes a cross-country ski-trail, linking small resorts where there are also chair and drag lifts and pistes for downhill skiing. Farms in the Upper Vosges have a tradition of providing

inexpensive meals and accommodation for tourists, and there are some 65 officially approved *fermes-auberges* along the route. Call in at least once for a *repas maraîcher* (milkman's meal) of *tourte de la vallée* (pork pie with onions and eggs), *schiffala-roigabraggeli* (smoked pork with bacon, onion and potato hash) followed by munster cheese, and creamy *fromage blanc* and *tarte aux myrtilles* made with locally gathered whinberries.

I have left to last the road that almost all visitors to Alsace inevitably follow, at least for part of its length. That is the Route du Vin, which runs for 75 miles through the vineyards at the foot of the Vosges from

Mardenheim, west of Strasbourg, past Colmar, to Thann. There are more than 100 villages and towns along its length, not one of them less than delightful. No one should miss Obernai, Mittelbergheim, or Hunawir, whose Centre de Réintroduction des Cigognes has successfully restored storks to the rooftops of surrounding villages, such as Kayersberg and Turckheim. Finally there is charm-filled Eggenstein. I take that for my favourite village in all Alsace, though it is a very close fought thing. How good to have only that to fight about, now that Alsace is so beautifully and prosperously at peace.

Next week: Paris

WHAT TO BUY

WINE and some bottles of Alsace's speciality *eaux-de-vie*, which include such curiosities as distillates of sorb apples (*alsters*), bilberries (*myrtilles de bois*) and holly berries (*baies de houx*), are obvious purchases. So, for those who are not squeamish about force feeding, is *foie gras*. Riskier are munster cheeses, which smell strongly and need to be carefully temperature controlled. Pates and sausages, smoked trout, goat's cheeses and local honeys are sold from farms all over Alsace. The region's traditional, folksy Bower-patterned pottery is widely sold, but the best sources are the manufacturing villages of Betschdorf and Soufflenheim in Bas-Rhin. Leatherwork, painting *sous verre* (under glass), and crystal and glass manufacture are further specialties of the northern Vosges. Alsace also has several excellent mineral waters. Gonzenbach, only available direct from the source at Gunsbach in the Munster valley, is so lightly pebbly that I even prefer it to the foodies' usual favourite, Badol.



Folksy art: visit the Alsatian pottery villages

GUIDE BOOKS

THE relevant Michelin Green Guide, *Alsace Lorraine Vosges*, is fully comprehensive but only available in French, at £6.95. For once there is an adequate alternative in English: while James Bentley's *Alsace* (Penguin, £7.99) is amiably discursive, and Insight Pocket Guides' *Alsace* (Apa Publications, GeoCenter International UK, Visible Centre, Harrow Way, Basingstoke, £3.99) is well-organised, attractively illustrated and cheap, by far the most readable, evocative and stimulating guide is *Alsace: The Complete Guide* by Vivienne Menkes-Jury, published by Simon & Schuster at £9.99. The literature of Alsace includes some of Goethe's most lyric poetry, written while he was in love with Friederike Brion, daughter of the pastor of Sessenheim; Sebastian Brant's satirical medieval bestseller, *The Ship of Fools*; and *Mon village: images et commentaires par l'Oncle Hansi*, which earned the patriotic Jean-Jacques Walz, curator of Colmar's splendid Unterlinden museum, a year's prison sentence from the occupying Germans when it was published in 1914. You may still find copies in bookshops in Strasbourg and Colmar specialising in *Alsatiques* (books about Alsace).

HOW TO GET THERE

THE fast route by road is by the A26 and A4 autoroutes from Calais. Tolls total FF187 (£19.50) in each direction, and the driving time to Strasbourg is about six hours. By air there are frequent scheduled flights to Strasbourg. Mulhouse and southern Alsace share the airport of Basle in Switzerland, which is almost equally well served. The principal tourist offices for all information are: Office Départementale du Tourisme du Bas-Rhin, 9 rue du Dôme, BP53, 67061 Strasbourg Cedex (88 22 01 02); and Association Départementale du Tourisme du Haut-Rhin, Hôtel du Département, 68006 Colmar Cedex (89 23 21 11).



lower power: heading for lunch in the lanes of Kayersberg

lore modest meals are also available in the hotel's *winstub*, *almshaus*, *An Fer Rouge*, 52 Grand-Rue (89 41 37 24), strick Fulgraff's restaurant occupies one of the most beautiful timbered houses of Colmar's old town. Schillingers, handsomely out more modestly situated at 64 rue Stanislas (89 41 43 17),

is also seriously good. Prices range from about FF150. Eggenstein: Le Caveau d'Eggenstein, 3 place du Château (89 41 08 89). So beautifully situated, opposite the village fountain in my favourite of all Alsace villages, that you might think it would be a tourist trap. No such thing. Menus from FF140.

A typical Alsatian *colombage* (half-timbered) house here.

Because of its central location within the European Community, and Strasbourg's Euro-city status, property prices are not cheap. The old part of Strasbourg has winding, cobbled streets and medieval houses spilling over leafy canals. A small flat here is likely to cost about £120,000. Houses in the same area fetch from £500,000 to more than £1 million.

South of Strasbourg, around the old city of Colmar, old village houses with steep pitched roofs, dormer windows and *windmills* full of geraniums start at £70,000 for two bedrooms. Modern country houses, with four or five bedrooms, good views and an acre of garden with fruit trees, cost from £90,000 to £250,000.

Farmhouses in need of renovation are few and far between,

but there are a number of attractive manors and châteaux in the region requiring modernisation, priced from £280,000 for anything that is habitable.

Prices slip further west in the wet and woody Vosges mountains. Here you can buy a dilapidated stone-built cottage, on the edge of a forest and not far from the ski-slopes, for about £40,000.

As well as good road and rail connections to Paris, Frankfurt, Basel and Zurich, there is a direct train service from Calais to Strasbourg (six hours).

CHERYL TAYLOR

For British estate agents handle property in Alsace. Further details about properties in the region may be obtained from *Principaux Kitz* of local agents Colmar Immobilien, 13 rue Goltberg, BP 166-68003, Colmar, France (89 41 23 43).

WHERE TO STAY

LUXURY

● **Reichart: Château d'Isenbourg** (89 49 63 53). Among the vineyards just off the N83, 37 rooms from FF650-1,300, and three apartments from FF1,450. Tennis, fitness centre, swimming pools indoors and out, and excellent buffet breakfasts served on the lawn. Relais & Châteaux.

● **Stelant: Hostellerie Abbaye La Pommereuse**, 8 avenue du Maréchal-Foch (88 92 07 84). Small luxury hotel (six rooms, four apartments from FF650-1,800) in a former Cistercian abbey at the foot of Haut-Koenigsbourg.

● **Obernai: La Cour d'Alsace**, 3 rue Gail (88 95 07 00), 43 spacious rooms from FF500-740 in superb buildings round an interior courtyard and a lovely garden.

● **Jungbluth: Résidence Les Violettes**, Thierbach (89 76 91 19). Collection of historic cars adds interest in this quiet and peaceful 24-room hotel (FF440-710).

● **Ribeaucourt: Clos St-Vincent** (89 73 67 65), 12 rooms, FF595-840, and three suites, among the vineyards.

● **La Petite-Pierre: Au Lion d'Or**, 15 rue Principale (88 70 45 06). At the centre of the Vosges regional park. Some of the 35 rooms (FF320-380) have balconies overlooking the valley, and the hotel has a swimming pool.

● **Le Wastenberg: Hôtel Le Moulin** (88 96 27 83). 19-room hotel with no restaurant, eight miles from Strasbourg on a branch of the Ill (FF275-375).

● **Ottrott-le-Haut: Obernai: Beau Site**, place Eglise (88 95 80 61). Fine inn at the foot of Mont Sainte-Odile, with 15 rooms, good restaurants and a panoramic terrace serving menus from FF95.

● **Colmar: Le Martchal**, 5 place Six-Montagnes-Noires (89 41 60 32). Some of the 20 comfortable and well-equipped rooms in this 16th-century building overlook the river Lauch (FF450-1,400).

● **Murbach: Hostellerie Saint-Barnabé**, 25 rue Murbach (89 76 92 15). Stone and timber hotel in a floriferous valley, with 17 comfortable rooms, and good dining (FF300-695).

INEXPENSIVE

● **Birkenwald: Au Chasseur**, 8 rue du Cimetière (88 70 61 32). Excellent country inn, with a swimming pool, in an idyllic village south of Saverne. M. Gass is a good cook, which makes demi-pension a bargain. 26 rooms, FF250-320; half-board FF260-320.

● **Glimbelhof: Hôtel Restaurant Glimbelhof**, 10km north of Lembach (88 94 43 58). Exceptionally cheap lodgings at this rustic meeting place. The eight rooms cost FF80-200, and demi-pension only FF145.

● **Thann: Le Clos de la Mennière**, 30 rue Sainte-Anne (89 73 10 47). Lovely inn west of Saint-Hippolyte with splendid views, and excellent meals at FF90 or 115.

● **Berghheim: La Cour du Bailli**, 57 Grand-Rue (89 73 73 46). Spacious self-catering studios and apartments from FF380 a night for two or three in high season (FF300-380). In one of the best medieval towns on the Route du Vin.

● **Artzenheim: Auberge d'Artzenheim**, 30 rue Sponeck (89 71 60 51). The ten rooms (FF215-295) are quiet and well equipped, and the cooking is good. Demi-pension FF235-295.

● **Froedingen: Auberge de Froedingen**, 2 route d'Ilfurth (89 25 48 48). All beams and geraniums at this restaurant with seven rooms (FF270-330) just south of Mulhouse.

CAMPING

● **The most attractive camp sites are: Heidenkopf, Niederbronn-les-Bains** (88 09 08 46); **Les Hérens, Betschdorf** (89 40 34 72); **Municipal des 2 Holsbach, Labaruche** (89 49 83 72); **Municipal, Miltach** (89 77 63 77); **La Mine d'Argent, Moosach** (89 82 30 66); **Les Sources, Wastwiller** (89 75 44 94).

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Specialty Selected for the More Discerning Traveller

At home with the artists in residence

Home from home: Sir Roger and Lady de Grey in Kent

Anyone seeing the President of the Royal Academy, Sir Roger de Grey, progressing in a glorified fashion about his splendid headquarters off Piccadilly might be surprised to see how he sometimes starts the day in the country.

Not one to waste time standing around on BR platforms, Sir Roger waits until the train is almost upon his local station in northwest Kent before tearing out of the house and sprinting across the fields to catch it. As often as not a similarly fleet of foot Lady de Grey drops into a seat beside him.

Thus do the art world supremo and his consort leave the cottage that has been their Garden of England retreat for almost 40 years.

Sir Roger, president of the Royal Academy since 1984, bought the 18th-century brick and tile cottage for £1,000 in 1956. He was no stranger to the area, having spent childhood holidays in the "big house" next door, the home of his maternal aunt. When she died he bought the cottage, originally a pair of one-up-one-down workmen's dwellings, from her estate.

At the time it was less a question of doing up the house than of undoing the unsympathetic modernisation of former occupants. Now it bears the de Greys' no-fuss, no-frills stamp with polished chimney-brick floors, whitewashed walls and exposed beams.

Sir Roger's position at the Royal Academy means that he has to be in London at least four days a week.

and he sometimes stays in the couple's London home in Kennington. But as often as he can he heads back to Kent, and makes a point of being there on Fridays and weekends.

The simplicity of his cottage is in as marked contrast to the Georgian splendours of Burlington House as the life he leads there. In London his diary is filled with engagements for months in advance. His schedule gets so busy that a couple of years ago he instituted breakfast parties at the Royal Academy in an effort to cram even more events in.

Sir Roger loves his work at the RA and finds it "extraordinarily interesting", but admits it does intrude on his own creative efforts and the time he is able to spend at the cottage. First and foremost Sir Roger is a working artist and is happiest painting in his studio in Kent, a converted barn, which he shares with his wife, Flavia Irwin, whom he met when they were both pupils at Chelsea School of Art. "It is here that I am at my most relaxed," he says. "I adore being in the country."

Despite all this he still manages to give the occasional lesson at the City and Guilds of London Art School, where his wife teaches one day a week.

The studio is midway between his sun's old home and his cottage, separated from the latter by a field full of apple and cherry trees, including one gnarled old wild apple much painted by Sir Roger.

Lady de Grey is usually first up and into the studio, where she

works on the abstracts which she paints in acrylic on to unpainted duck cloth. Sir Roger starts a little later, "after Flavia has warmed the place up a bit". At any one time he might be working on up to ten of the landscapes he paints in oils. Sometimes they take time off to work in the garden, where they grow vegetables and raspberries.

None of the De Greys' pictures hangs inside the cottage — "we don't like looking at our own work," he says — but there are plenty by family, friends and other 20th-century English and European painters and sculptors. They include Sir Roger's uncle, Spencer Gore, his predecessor at the Royal Academy, Sir Hugh Casson, and the Falklands war artist Linda Kinson. "I keep on collecting things like little bits of sculpture, prints and drawings," he says. "I'm just as happy looking at small things as I am looking at great masterpieces, and I love mixtures of things and styles."

Sir Roger's favourite piece is an 18th-century green lacquer long-case clock, and there is a pair of Jacobean chairs inherited from his mother which run a close second. But the piece that he most often points out to people is the first thing he ever collected when, as a young art student, he picked up a delicately turned 18th-century wooden English candlestick for just two shillings.

JONATHAN DAWSON



Where painting is not a chore: Sir Roger and Lady de Grey at their no-frills country retreat

Heap of the week

Melville Castle

Secret enchanted ruin

A LARGE hoarding on the front of Melville Castle announces: "Major". This is precisely what it should not be. However, the particulars are worth obtaining, if only to ogle at the artist's impression of the baronial-style addition, approved as a new 50-bedroom annexe to the enchanting Robert Adam-style castle.

The one drawback is that the new Edinburgh ring road flies across the Esk Valley about half a mile from the house. But in every other way the setting of Melville is magical. Here, just six miles



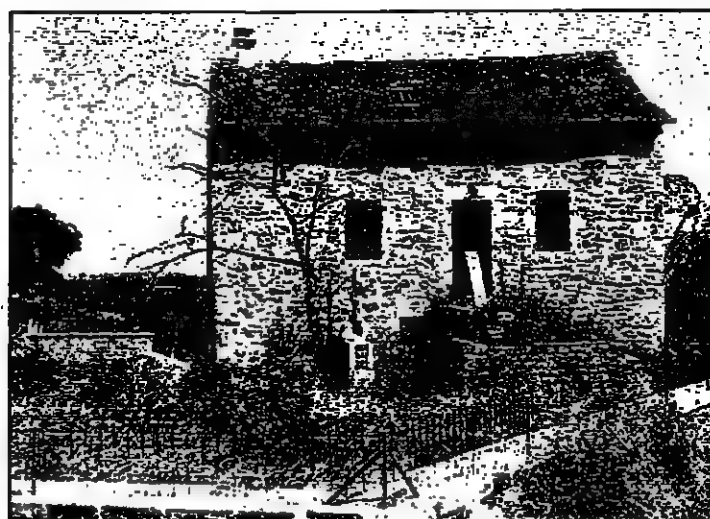
Stripped bare: Melville

from the centre of Edinburgh, is a secret valley, entirely enclosed by hanging woods.

The castle was built in 1786-91 to the designs of James Playfair. Outside it is a toy castle, with a tall centre and lower wings. The interior was restrained but elegant neo-classical, but all the fittings have been stripped out. The castle's demise was sudden, and recent. About five years ago it was acquired by a local businessman, but is now being sold by the mortgagee, the Bank of East Asia. Offers of £750,000 are invited for the building and 50 acres. Midlothian council has served a repairs notice on Melville, listed category A and so eligible for grants.

MARCUS BINNEY
Further information: Graham & Sibbald (031-225 1559)

History and drama in unspoilt beauty



Stone setting: this partially restored hamlet house is £27,000

The Aveyron is an unspoilt mountainous département between the Lot and the Tarn, in southwest France. Green and fertile, it is criss-crossed by rivers and full of lakes and waterfalls. It has an impressive historic capital in Rodez, 500 medieval castles, some ancient walled towns and villages, dramatic gorges, and the limestone caves where Roquefort ewe's milk cheese is ripened.

Sailing, canoeing and white-water rafting are popular pastimes, and there is good riding, hill walking and fishing; you can even ski in the Aveyron, with three resorts in the Aubrac mountains.

Despite its many attractions, the



Buyer's France

THE AVEYRON

Aveyron remains largely undiscovered by British property buyers, and prices are low. Old properties in this part of France offer good potential. Most homes have four or five rooms, usually arranged on two floors, with outbuildings and up to

20 acres of land. The first floor is used for living accommodation, the ground floor for storing wine.

You can buy a large stone farmhouse for renovation, with a barn and well, but without mains water or electricity, for just £15,000. But be prepared to spend at least another £20,000 to make it habitable. Fully restored, with converted outbuildings, suitable for *chambres d'hôte* or *gîtes*, the same property might fetch £80,000.

A renovated village house, with two or three bedrooms, modernised kitchen and bath, exposed beams and original fireplaces, costs from about £35,000. Large country houses in good condition, with

some land, cost from £50,000.

The pretty stone-built house pictured left is in a small hamlet a few miles from the beautiful hill-top village of Najac, southwest of Rodez. It is for sale at £27,000 (including agency fees), through agents Silex, Phoenix House, 86 Fulham High Street, London SW6 (071-384 1200). The old house has been partially restored by its English owners but needs a new staircase.

The nearest international airport for the Aveyron is Toulouse, about two hours' drive; allow ten hours for the drive from Calais.

CHERYL TAYLOR

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PROPERTY BUYERS GUIDE

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Sparks fly: hot work for three of the Six Smiths, Stephen Edwards, Felicity Evans and Caroline Musson, in their south London railway arch

It takes more than a sparky design to turn good ideas into marketable products. A valid criticism often levelled at fledgling designers is that they fail to come up with commercially viable concepts. But a group of young blacksmiths called the Six Smiths is determined to show its metal.

Apart from their 1991 degree show at Camberwell School of Art, where they studied under Amanda Bright, the six got their first public platform at last year's New Designers exhibition in London, where they showed their handcrafted metal furniture and accessories.

This non-profit-making show has proved an effective showcase for creative young British talent over the past six years, and contacts made during last month's exhibition, where the Six Smiths contributed to the "One Year On" display, again resulted in contracts and commissions for work. "It was an excellent venue," says Caroline Musson, aged 23, whose idea it was to set up the group's co-operative workshop in south London. "We all got something out of it."

As a result of showing her

Forging a creative path

Nicole Swengley meets a group of designer blacksmiths

decorative steel and brass framed mirrors at last year's New Designers exhibition. Ms Musson was invited to exhibit at Amsterdam's K15 gallery, whose combined gallery-shop-workshop inspired her to start a similar venture.

Finding suitably inexpensive premises proved no mean task for the group. Eventually they came upon a railway arch in Battersea which had been occupied by squatters. "There was no loo or running water and we literally had to clear out the drains ourselves," Ms Musson says.

None of the blacksmiths wanted to work for a designer when they left college, preferring to be their own bosses. "Occasionally we work together on a project, but more often we are commissioned individ-

ually, although we make joint decisions about the workshop and share its expenses as well as pooling specialist knowledge," Ms Musson says.

Since the group moved into its arch workshop earlier this year she has worked on a variety of private commissions. She now supplies her "sunburst" mirrors to Liberty's Regent Street store, where they cost from about £100. Other designs can be commissioned directly from her.

Stephen Edwards, 22, who recently became the seventh member of the Six Smiths, makes decorative fire baskets, furniture and candlesticks in forged and manufactured steel. Private commissions have come his way during the past year for a hat-stand and a pair of gates. He has also

made a snakes'-nest fire basket (about £350), wavy candlestick (£200) and table with curved legs (£600).

"The mutual support of the co-operative works very well," he says. "There are things you can't do individually and I missed the stimulation of working with others when I tried to go it alone."

At 35, Michael Hurley is the oldest of the group. He makes decorative vessels in copper, stainless steel and silver, which can be commissioned for about £500. He is currently working with two of the Six Smiths, Kate Parkin and Felicity Evans, both 24, on a bird-bath cum sundial for Gary Kemp of the pop group Spandau Ballet, commissioned as a result of last year's New Designers show.

Ms Evans specialises in large forged iron gates and railings in a stylish update of art nouveau forms. "Forged steel is very flexible," she says. "It comes in solid, hard pieces yet you can create something quite exotic with it." A pair of six-foot high gates can be commissioned for about £2,500.

Last year, Ms Parkin's display of unusual bowls at the New Designers show resulted in an invitation to exhibit in Edinburgh, alongside work by several other members of the Six Smiths. As well as the bowls, whose forms incorporate the Devon landscape, she makes ark-shaped steel boxes, costing about £300.

Stephen McIntyre, 27, who creates steel structures with an architectural theme, and Owen Daley, 23, who produces sculptural metalwork to create tables, vases and columns, complete the group. "It's dirty and very physical work," Ms Musson says, "but we all enjoy the hands-on approach of metalwork, and the workshop means we can make exactly what we want."

● Six Smiths, Arch 11, Culbert Place, Battersea, London SW11 5BA (071-498 2977; by appointment only).

Pure, lasting lustre

Anthony Stern's hand-blown glass glows with dazzling diversity

Blowing glass and taking photographs have much in common, according to Anthony Stern. "You're working with a translucent material on which the impact of light is all important. There's an immediacy in capturing the drama of the moment which applies to both media," he says.

An earlier career as a photographer, cameraman and film director meant that Mr Stern, aged 47, came late in life to glass-making. A chance visit to The Glasshouse in London's Covent Garden proved to be his road to Damascus. "As soon as I saw the glass-blowing I knew that this was what I wanted to do," he says.

At 33 he enrolled in a glass-making degree course at London's Royal College of Art with a view to setting up his own workshop. He first developed a set of Venetian-style glassware with white spiral effects, then started experimenting with the use of metal by blowing glass into pre-cut copper forms. "I found this put tremendous life into the glass," he says, "instead of making the glass first then adding metal, in the usual way, I blow the glass into a metal bracket so it is created simultaneously."

The effects are dazzling in their diversity. Some of the latest pieces look like antique Roman vessels while others resemble tribal decoration.

While the glass is still hot, it is covered with a solution of tin chloride, which gives an iridescent finish comparable to the lustre of ancient glass objects buried for centuries.

Mr Stern is fascinated by the psychological and spiritual effects of colour, and is encouraged that a Buddhist monastery in Japan has bought five of his Seascape vessels as objects of contemplation. "I use pure colours and those I find uplifting," he says. "I try to avoid muddy colours. I think people need something emotionally nourishing."

Most of the current range comes in deep cobalt blue, palest sea turquoise, translucent pink, bottle green and squashed-fruit purple. But new vases for London's Conran Shop feature 1930s-style abstract motifs in muted hues, and he is considering introducing brighter, more offbeat colours such as lime green, orange and chalky blue.

Mr Stern's work is distinctive in its diversity and adaptability. Vases with tactile, curvy forms and primitive vessels covered with cowrie shells or bones and fish-hooks perch

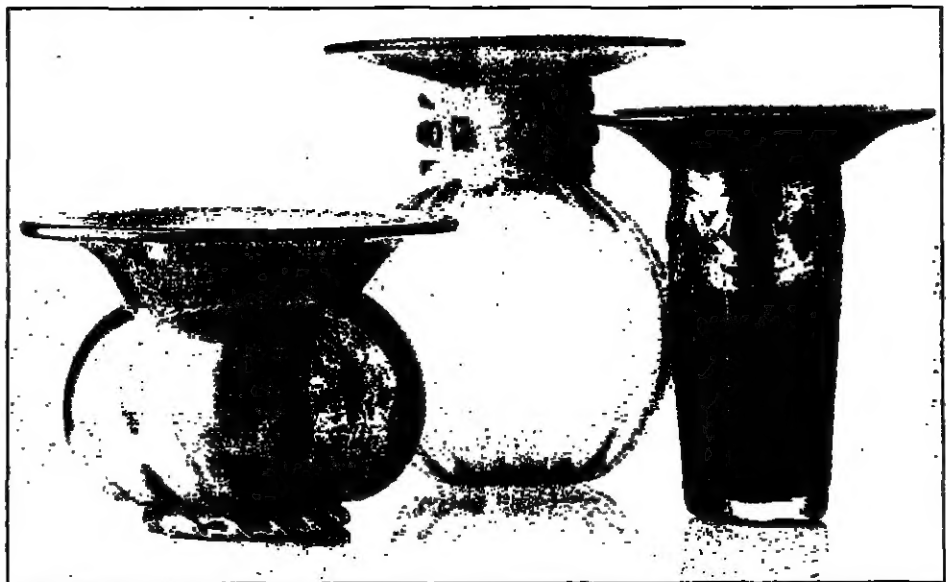
alongside traditionally styled jugs and decanters. Copies of 18th-century stemmed wine glasses vie for attention with wall-mounted, fluted vases in metal sconces, or glass tiles incorporating copper decoration for use as room dividers or table tops.

Two of Mr Stern's sons help him to meet demands from private collectors and commercial commissions from interior designers. "I'm constantly trying out new processes and effects," he says. "If anything, you could say I'm guilty of not being too serious."

N.S.

● Anthony Stern Glass, Unit 205, Avro House, Havlock Terrace, London SW8 (071-622 9463). Open to visitors by telephone appointment. His work is on sale at the Conran Shop, 81 Fulham Road, London SW3 (071-589 7401); Primavera, 10 Kings Parade, Cambridge (0223 357708); Higher Street Gallery, 1 Higher Street, Dartmouth, Devon (0803 833157); Candover Gallery, Alresford, Hampshire (096273 3200); Bristol Guild Craft Gallery, 68-70 Park Street, Bristol (0272 365548); Oxford Gallery, 23 High Street, Oxford (0865 242731).

● Typical prices: stoneware about £40 a glass; jugs with metal collars, £60-100; plain coloured tumblers from £14.95; wine jugs, £80; wall-mounted glass vase in metal sconce, £85; vase in floor-standing metal tripod, £120; 1930s-style vases, £300; large curvy vases, £260; Seascape vessels, £400-£700.



Coats of many colours: these Romanesque vessels represent one of Mr Stern's many styles

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